

"A roller-coaster
helst story from
start to finish."

— Multiversity Comics

BLACK CAT

MAC KAY
VILLA
VAKUEVA
REBER

QUEEN IN BLACK

MARVEL

BLACK CAT

QUEEN IN BLACK



Knull, the primordial and malicious god of the symbiotes, has arrived on Earth with an army of symbiote dragons. Knull is the **King in Black**.

Felicia Hardy and her crew of **Bruno** & **Doctor Korpse** have no idea what any of that means. Felicia's got a little experience with symbiotes from bad scrapes with **Eddie Brock** and **Lee Price** that she'd mostly like to forget. She's got plenty going on in her life as the greatest cat burglar in the world.

Felicia Hardy is...



BLACK CAT

QUEEN IN BLACK

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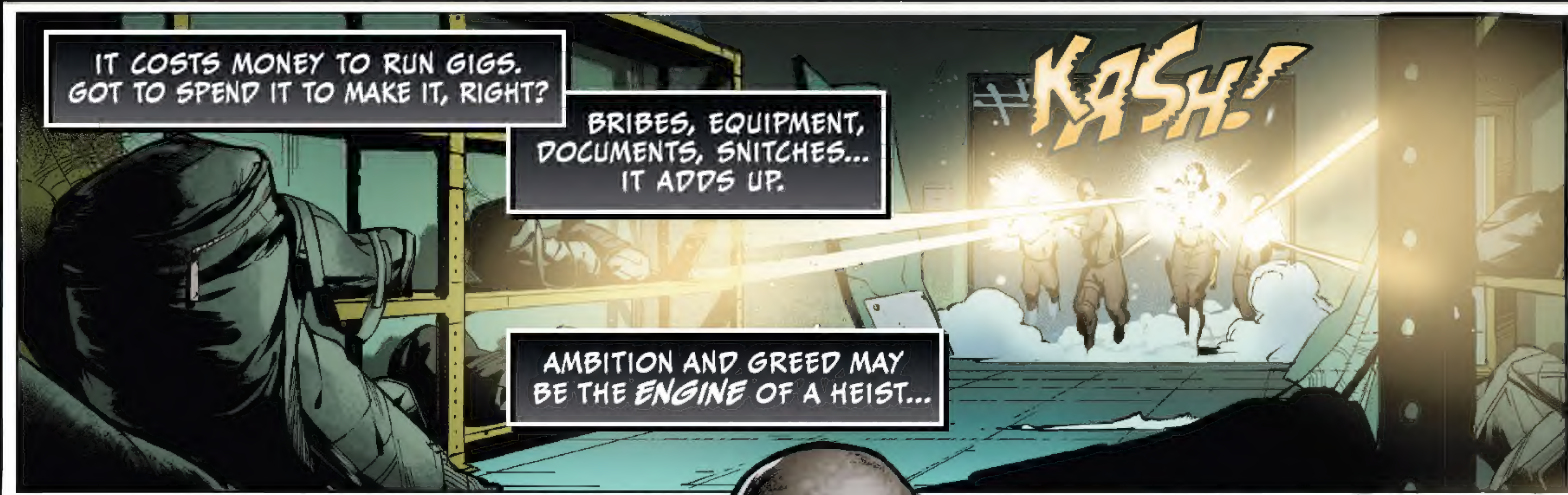
#1 variant by **SARA PICHELLI**





MONEY.

OPERATIONAL
FUNDS.



IT COSTS MONEY TO RUN GIGS.
GOT TO SPEND IT TO MAKE IT, RIGHT?

BRIBES, EQUIPMENT,
DOCUMENTS, SNITCHES...
IT ADDS UP.

AMBITION AND GREED MAY
BE THE *ENGINE* OF A HEIST...



...BUT MONEY
IS THE FUEL.



AND NOT JUST
FOR THIEVES
LIKE US, EITHER.

OUTFITS LIKE S.H.I.E.L.D. THREW
BLACK MONEY--UNTRACEABLE,
LAUNDERED CASH--AROUND LIKE IT
WAS CANDY FOR THE SAME REASONS.



AND WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.
GONE, WORD ON
THE STREETS HAS IT
THAT THERE'S STILL
CACHES OF THE
STUFF ALL OVER IN
FORGOTTEN DROPS.

PROBLEM IS,
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO
FIND THEM.

BUT
SOMEONE
DOES.

AND WITH THE CITY IN
EVACUATION, IT'S THE
PERFECT TIME FOR
THEM TO GO FOR IT.

S.H.I.E.L.D. EVEN LEFT BEHIND THE
PERFECT GETAWAY ROUTE: A
SECRET HIGHWAY SYSTEM
DEEP BELOW MANHATTAN.





WHICH MAKES SOMEONE
THE PERFECT TARGET.

SO HOW DO YOU
SNEAK UP ON A
VEHICLE MOVING
THROUGH A SECRET
UNDERGROUND
TUNNEL?

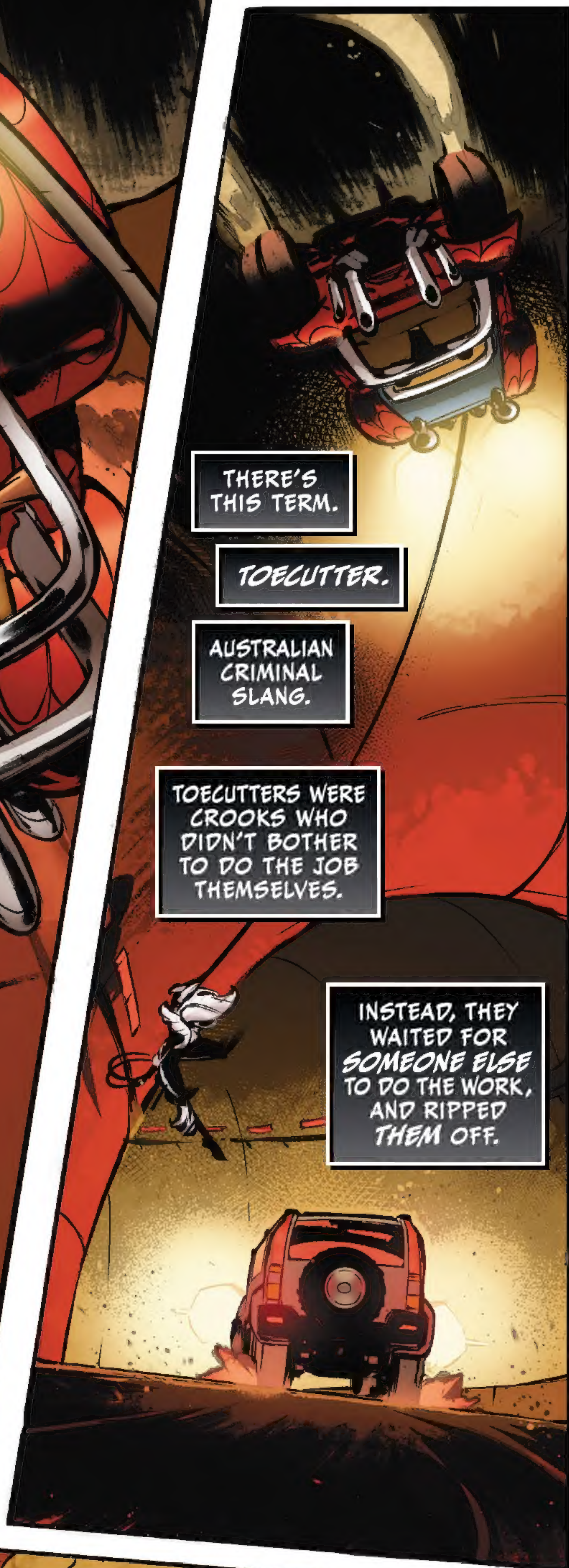
I'M GLAD
YOU ASKED.



WHAT?!

HE WASN'T
USING IT.

IT WAS JUST
SITTING THERE!



THERE'S
THIS TERM.

TOECUTTER.

AUSTRALIAN
CRIMINAL
SLANG.

TOECUTTERS WERE
CROOKS WHO
DIDN'T BOTHER
TO DO THE JOB
THEMSELVES.

INSTEAD, THEY
WAITED FOR
SOMEONE ELSE
TO DO THE WORK,
AND RIPPED
THEM OFF.



WHICH IS
EXACTLY WHAT
WE'RE DOING
HERE.

EASY
PICKINGS--

12:37 A.M.
THE AVENGERS' DEFENSE OF THE EARTH FAILS.
THE KING IN BLACK DESCENDS.







YOU'RE STAYING HERE?

ARE YOU INSANE?

OR DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD HARDER THAN WE THOUGHT?

BOTH, PROBABLY.



BUT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING MESSSED UP MY JOB.

AND I DON'T LET ANYONE DO THAT AND GET AWAY WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A BLACK EYE OR A BLOODY NOSE.



THERE WAS AN EVACUATION ORDER FOR NEW YORK.

BUT THERE'S ALWAYS AN EVACUATION ORDER FOR NEW YORK.

IT'S LIKE FIRE DRILLS. YOU DON'T EXPECT IT TO ACTUALLY MATTER.



THERE WAS JUST AN ALIEN INVASION. THE AVENGERS STOPPED IT.

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS. THE AVENGERS ALWAYS STOP THEM.



YOU GET USED TO IT.

YOU STOP ASKING THE QUESTION--



"WHAT IF THEY DIDN'T?"



WHAT THEN?

GET THOSE CIVILIANS INTO THE QUINJET! PUSH BACK THE SYMBIOTES, I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT!

SYMBIOTES?!

I DON'T BELIEVE IN AMERICA. NEVER HAVE.



IS THIS--IS THIS VENOM STUFF?

AMERICA IS BUILT ON THEFT. THEFT OF LAND. LIVES. DIGNITY.

THEFT OF MY FATHER FOR MY ENTIRE ADULT LIFE.

BUT THEY CALL ME THE 'CROOK'.



HI, YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER, BUT WE MET BEFORE--

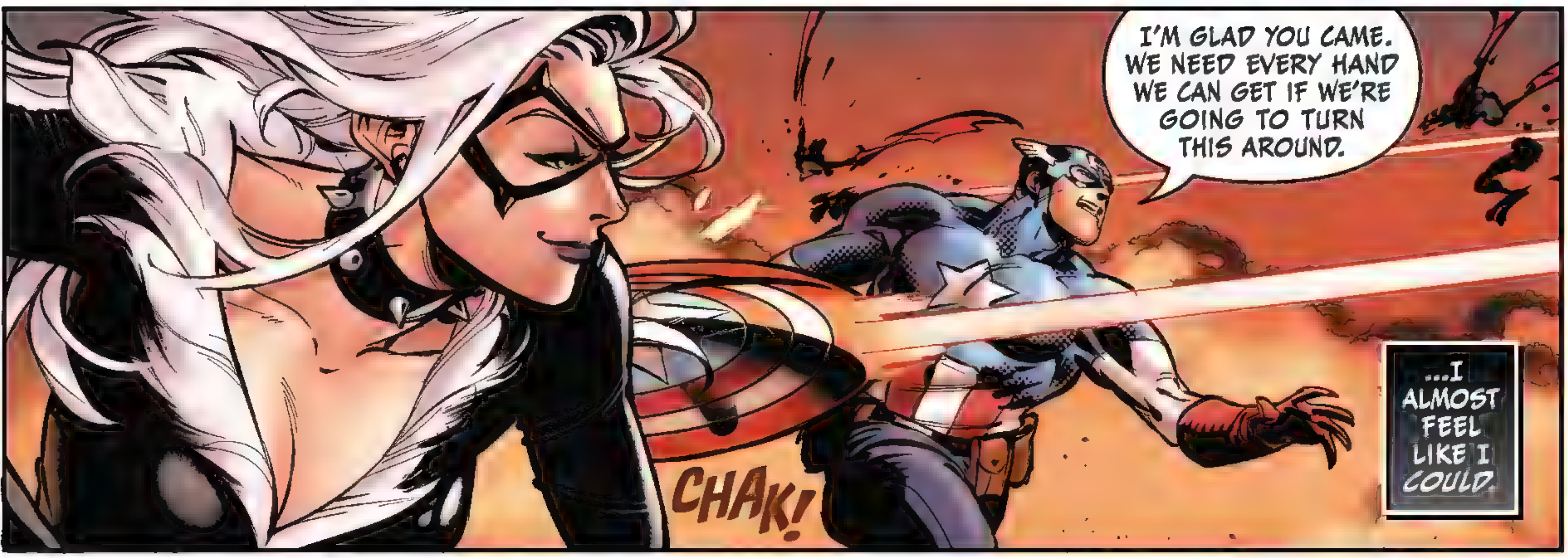
YOU'RE FELICIA HARDY. THE BLACK CAT?

SPIDER-MAN'S TALKED ABOUT YOU.

HE HAS?

I DON'T BELIEVE IN AMERICA.

BUT SEEING HIM, HEARING HIM TALK...



I'M GLAD YOU CAME. WE NEED EVERY HAND WE CAN GET IF WE'RE GOING TO TURN THIS AROUND.

...I ALMOST FEEL LIKE I COULD.

CHAK!



Uh, NO
PROB.

WE ARE
GOING TO TURN
THIS AROUND,
RIGHT?

LIKE,
YOU GOT
THIS?

WE'RE
ON THE
BACK FOOT,
I'M NOT
GOING TO
LIE.

BUT WE'VE
BROUGHT THE
BIGGEST GUNS
WE HAVE.



WE HAVE
THE WORLD'S
*SORCERER
SUPREME*
AND
THE X-MEN ON
OUR SIDE.

WE HAVE TO
TRUST IN THEM TO
HOLD UP THEIR END,
SO FOLKS LIKE US CAN
KEEP THE CIVILIANS
SAFE.

RIGHT.
EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST
MERLIN.



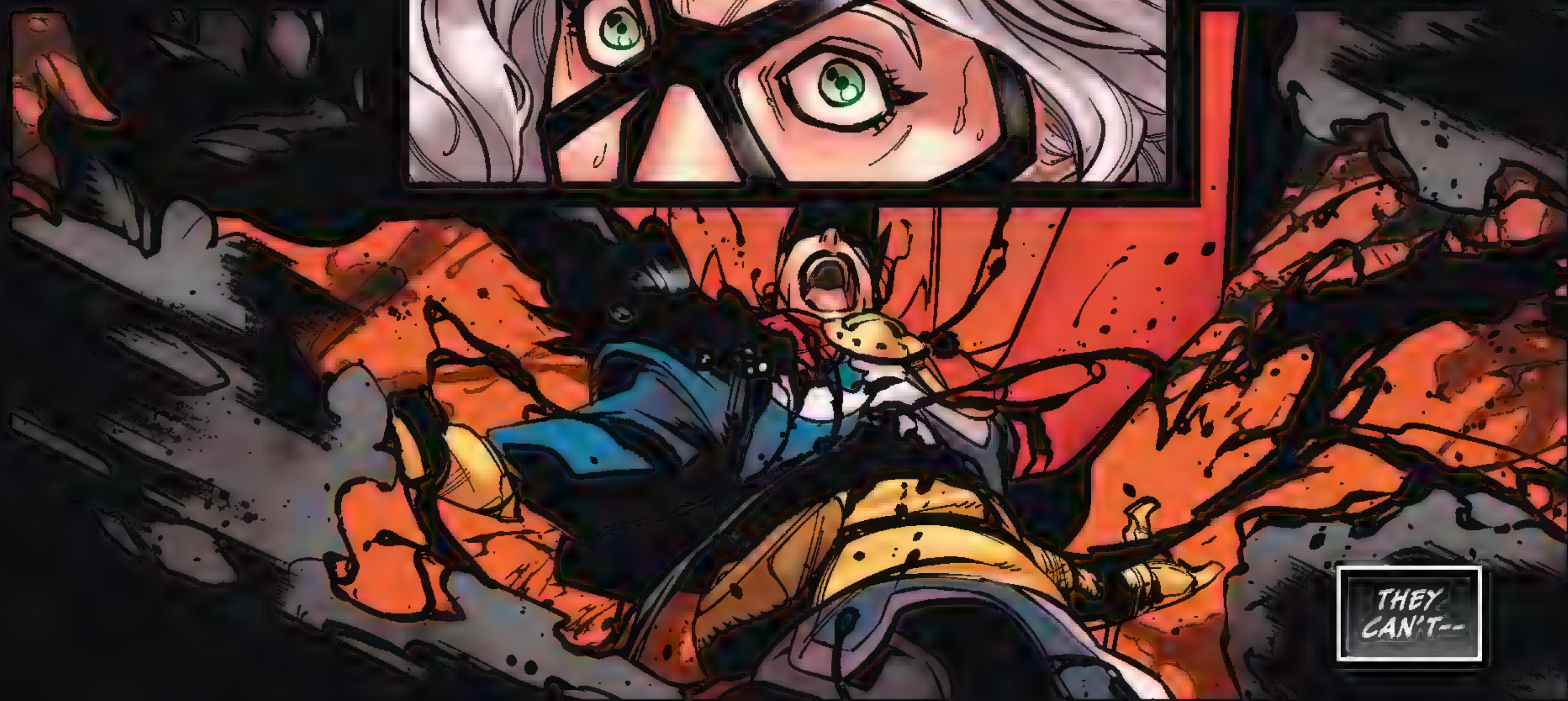
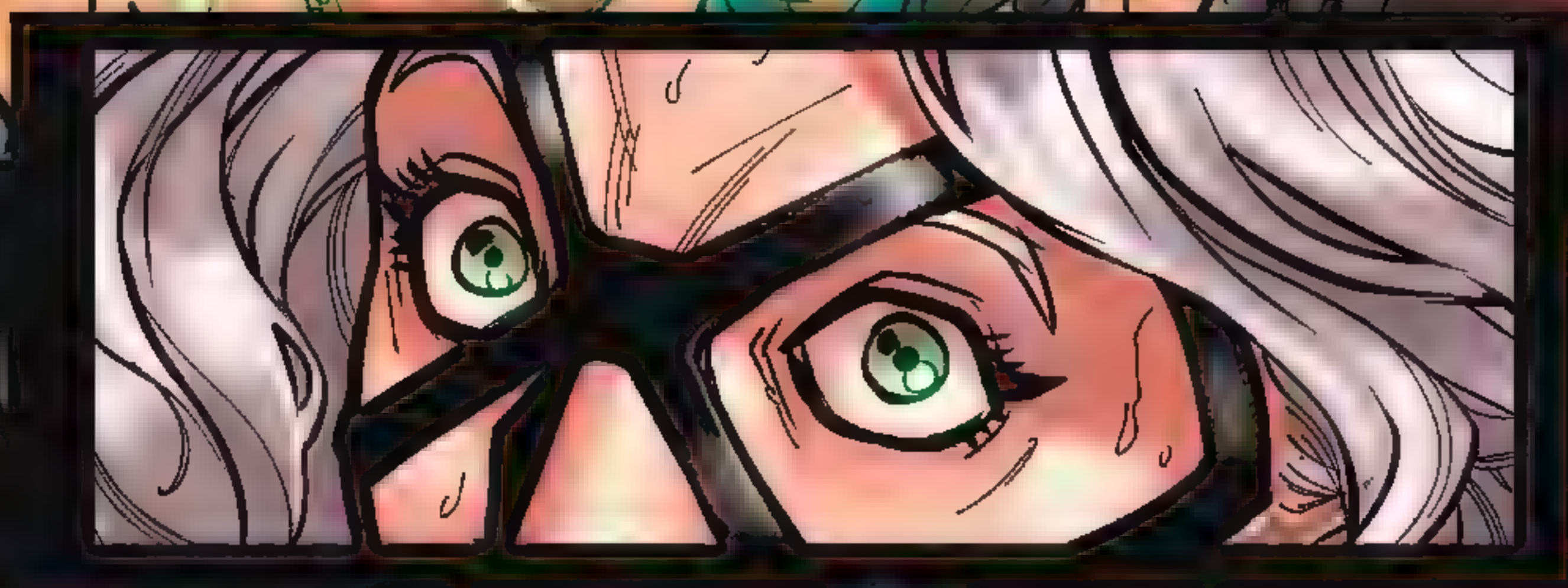
LOOK
AT HIM.

THE POWER.

PROBABLY BEST
HE DOESN'T
NOTICE ME AS
I ROBBED HIM
RECENTLY.

TWICE.

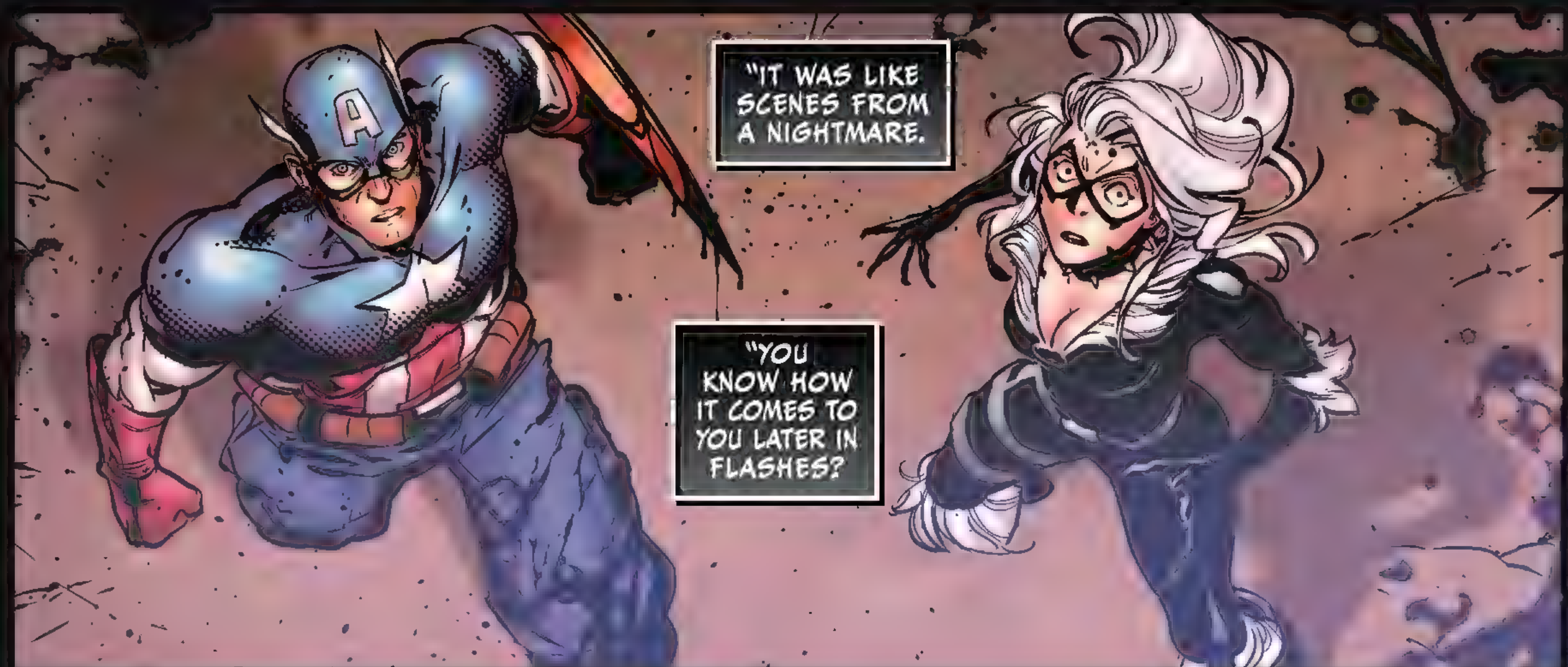
WAIT--





THEY
CAN.

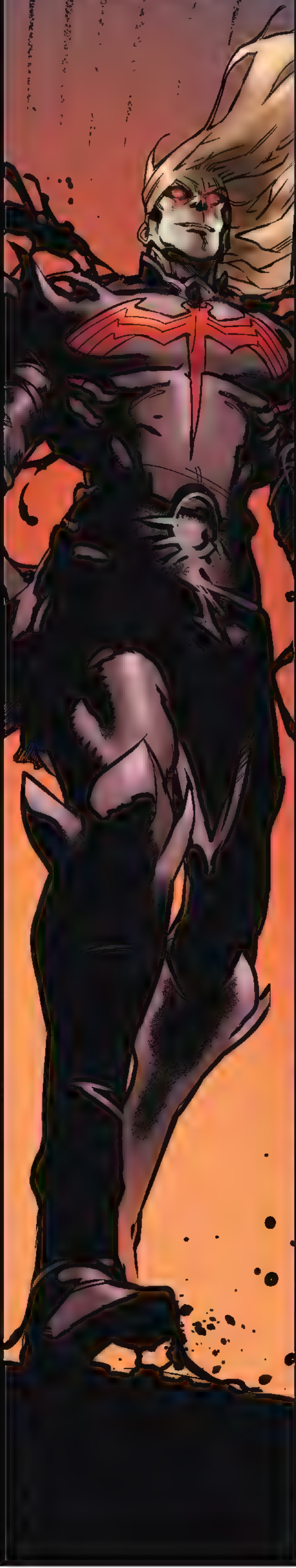
"WHAT
HAPPENED
THEN?"



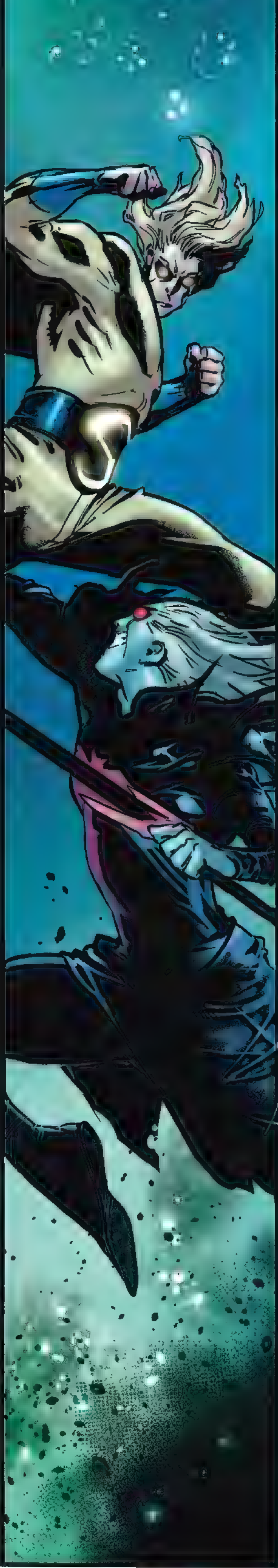
"IT WAS LIKE
SCENES FROM
A NIGHTMARE.

"YOU
KNOW HOW
IT COMES TO
YOU LATER IN
FLASHES?"

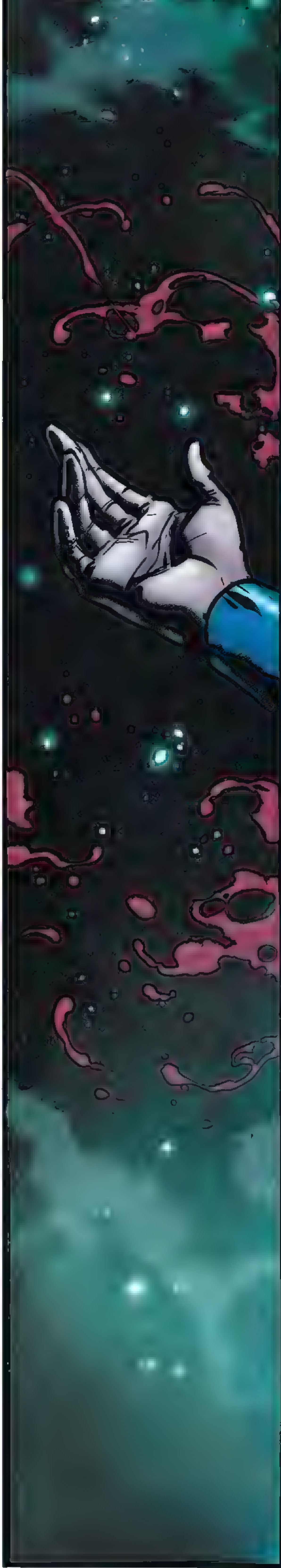
"THE DEVIL
HIMSELF
APPEARED."



"A GOD OF
LIGHT CAME
TO OUR AID..."

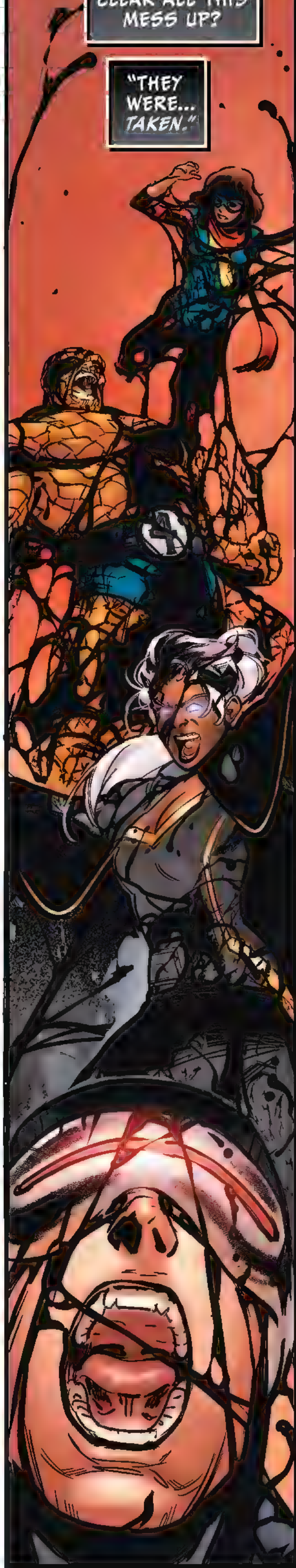


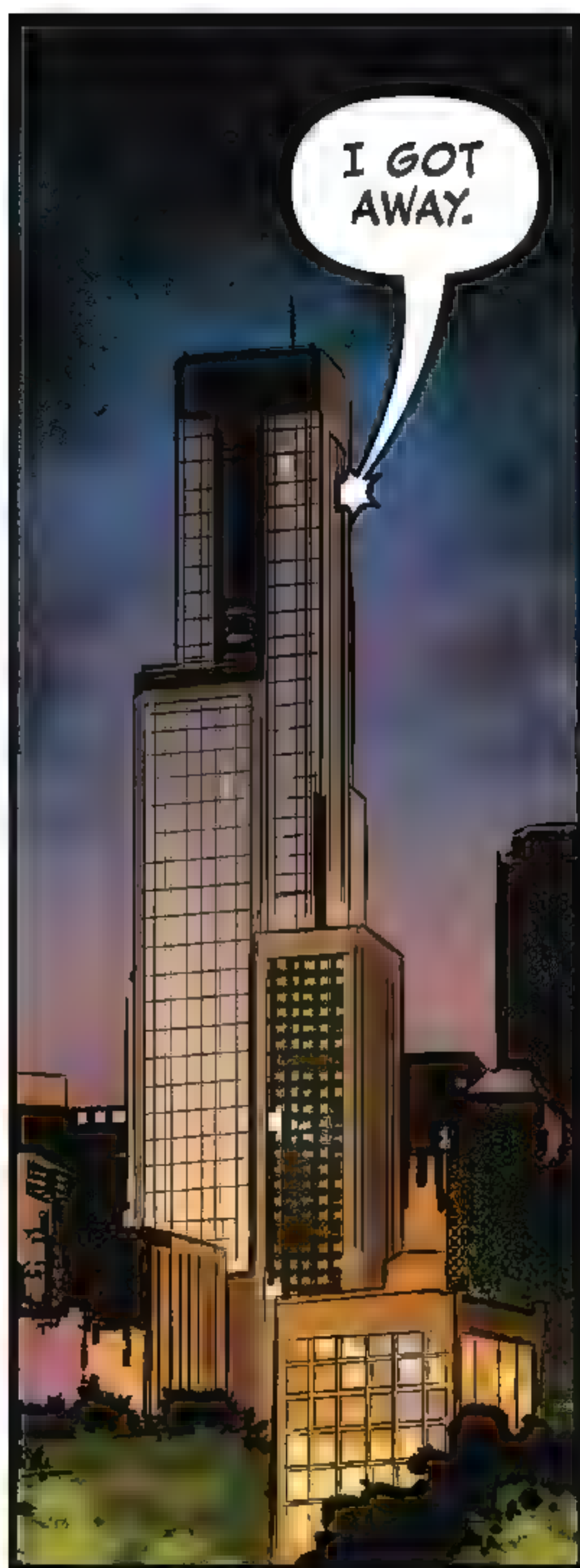
"...AND WAS
TORN APART."



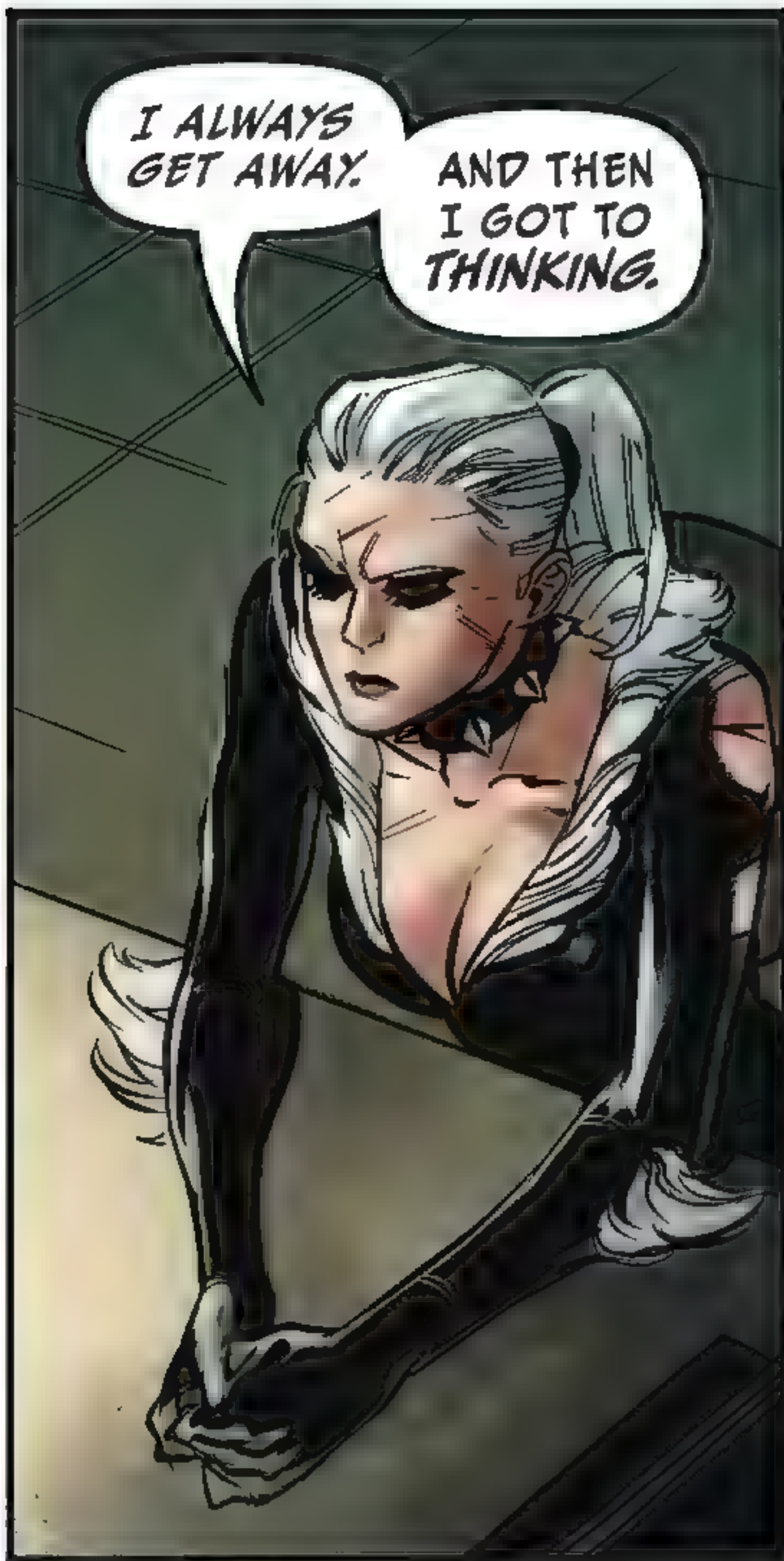
"AND OUR
HEROES, THE
ONES WHO WERE
SUPPOSED TO
CLEAR ALL THIS
MESS UP?"

"THEY
WERE...
TAKEN."





I GOT AWAY.



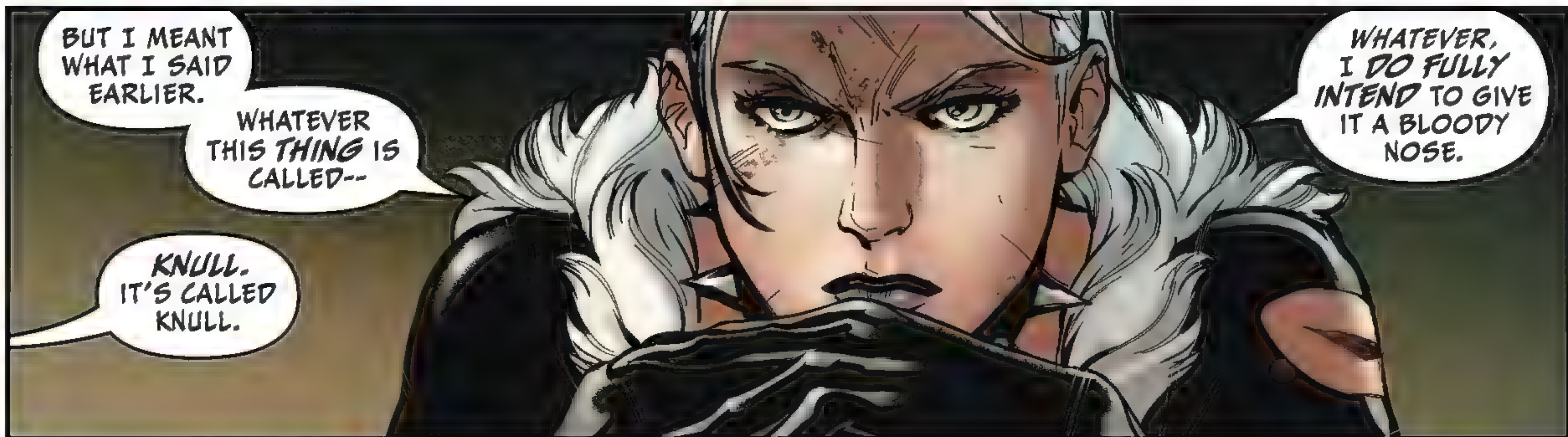
I ALWAYS GET AWAY.

AND THEN I GOT TO THINKING.



THIS IS ABOVE MY PAY GRADE. THIS IS NOT THE KIND OF THING ME AND MY BOYS HANDLE.

WE'RE NOT WORLD-BEATERS. WE'RE NOT COSMIC WHOZITS. WE'RE THIEVES. WE *STEAL* THINGS.



BUT I MEANT WHAT I SAID EARLIER.

WHATEVER THIS *THING* IS CALLED--

KNULL. IT'S CALLED KNULL.

WHATEVER, I *DO* FULLY INTEND TO GIVE IT A BLOODY NOSE.



WHICH BRINGS US HERE, TO JOLLY OLDE *ALCHEMAX*.

YOUR SECURITY LOCKDOWN PROTOCOLS COULD USE SOME WORK, BY THE WAY.

AND THE ONE PERSON I KNOW WHO KNOWS HOW TO *HURT* ALL THIS SYMBIOTE STUFF.

HIYA, *DR. STEVE*. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.



DR. STEVE? WHAT, DO YOU HAVE ONLY *ONE* NAME? LIKE *CHER*?

YES, "DR. KORPSE," I *DO*.

Hmm. FAIR.



A PLEASURE
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN, MS.
HARDY.

FIRST
EDWARD COMES
TO WARN ME ABOUT
THE COMING DANGER,
AND NOW **YOU** PAY
ME A VISIT.

PLEASE
CATCH ME UP, ARE
YOU STILL CURRENTLY
A **CRIME BOSS**? OR
A **VIGILANTE** NOW?
VILLAIN?

YOU PEOPLE
MAKE IT SO
HARD TO KEEP
TRACK.

CUTE,
COMING FROM
VENOM'S BEST
FRIEND.



**EDWARD
BROCK IS A
HERO.**

HE IS A MAN,
JUST A MAN,
BESET BY
**COSMIC
FORCES--**



SPARE ME THE
HAGIOGRAPHY. **BROCK'S**
A **DANGEROUS LOSER,**
NOTHING MORE.

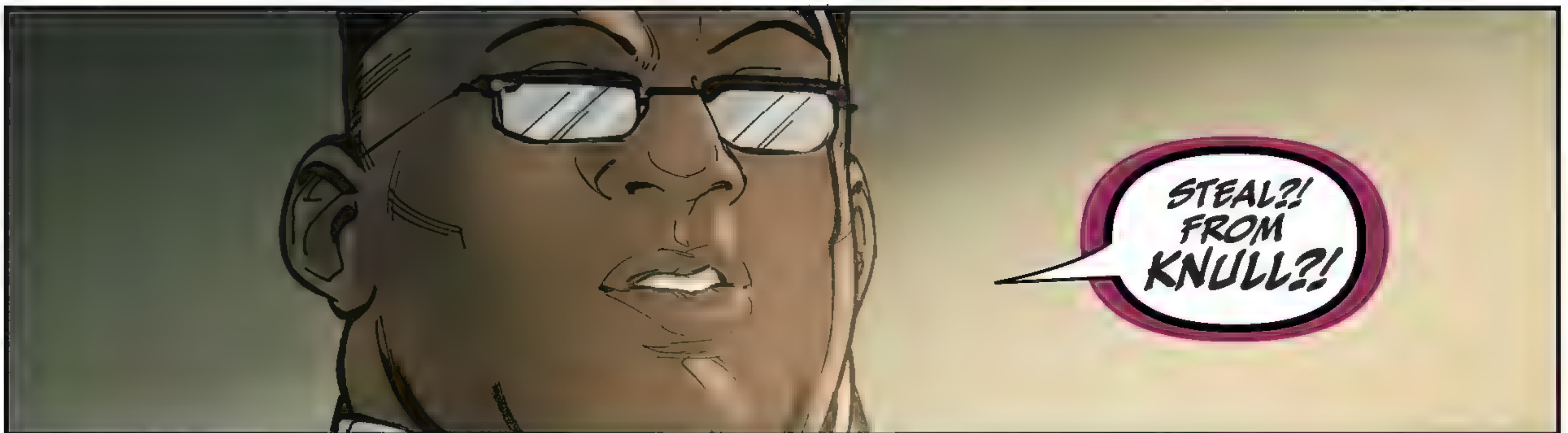
WHAT
I NEED TO
KNOW IS, ARE
YOU PART OF
THE CREW
OR NOT?



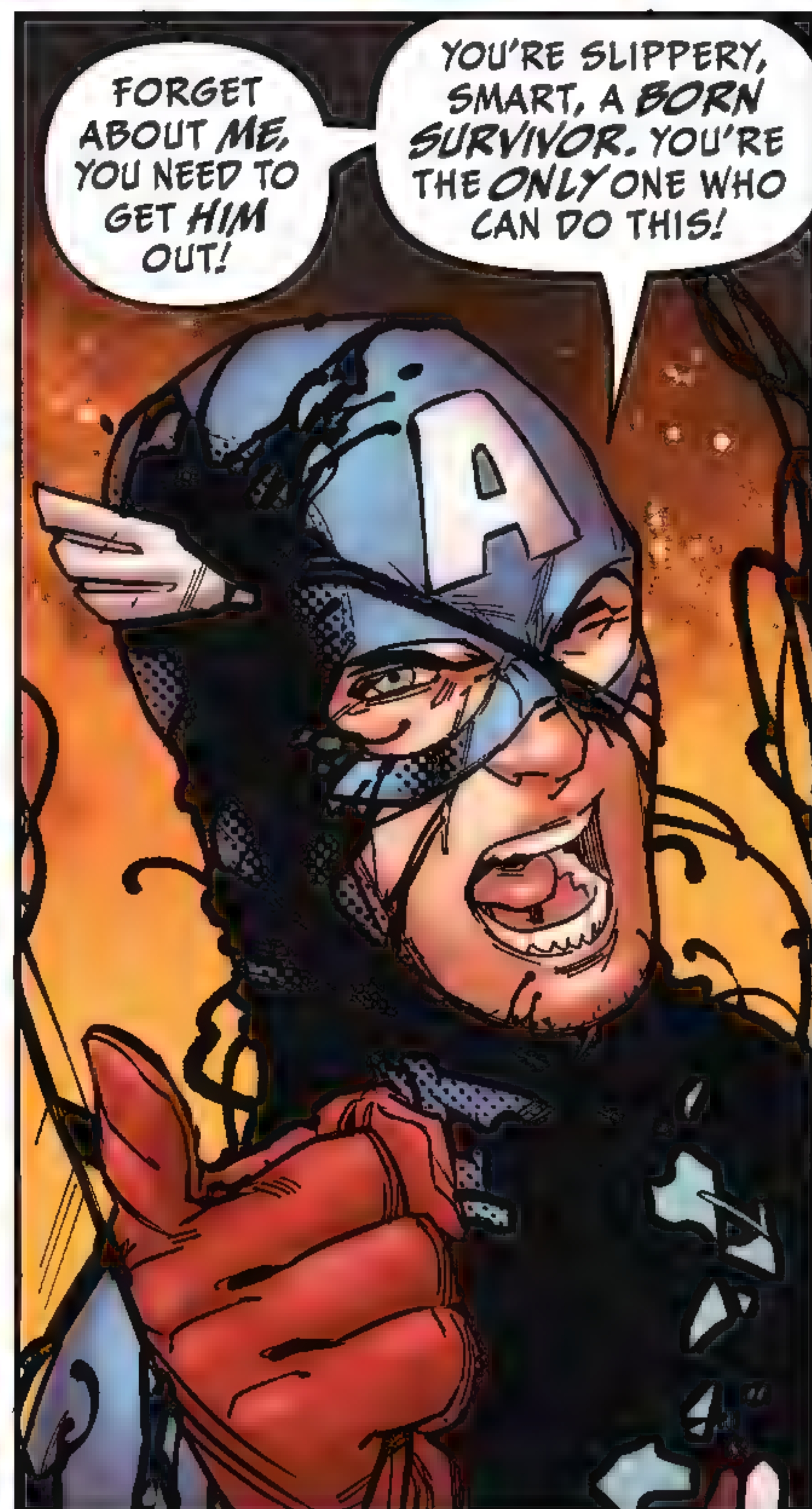
CREW? WHY IN THE
WORLD WOULD I JOIN
YOUR CREW?

BECAUSE
WE **NEED YOU,**
DR. STEVE.

BECAUSE
WE'RE GOING TO GO
OUT THERE AND GIVE
THIS **KNULL** A BLACK
EYE BY RUNNING A
JOB ON HIM.



**STEAL?!
FROM
KNULL?!**





THAT'S AN
ORDER!

FALL BACK,
REGROUP, THEN
FIND A WAY TO
BREAK HIM
OUT!



THE
WORLD
NEEDS HIM
MORE THAN
US!



LIKE
I SAID.

WE'RE NOT
WORLD-BEATERS.
WE'RE NOT
COSMIC
WHOZITS.





"THERE IT IS."

"DOCTOR STRANGE'S PRISON, STUCK ON THE TOP OF THE CHRYSLER BUILDING LIKE AN EVIL BOWLING TROPHY."



"NO BIG DEAL. JUST A COUPLE TONS OF ALIEN SLIME BETWEEN US AND THE BIG-TIME MERLIN."

WELL...

...I GUESS WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER.

SADDLE UP, BOYS. AND LET'S HOPE WE LIVE TO GET OLDER.



ALCHEMAX. TWO HOURS AGO.



I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU REALLY THINK THIS CAN BE DONE.

DR. STEVE, LET ME LIST THE PEOPLE I'VE RIPPED OFF IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.



DOCTOR STRANGE.

REED RICHARDS.

DANNY RAND (THE IRON FIST).

KADE KILGORE.

TONY STARK.

NEED I GO ON?



YOU THINK I'M GOING TO BAT AN EYE AT RUNNING GAME ON SOME GOOFY ALIEN SPACE GOD?

ANY SAFE CAN BE CRACKED.

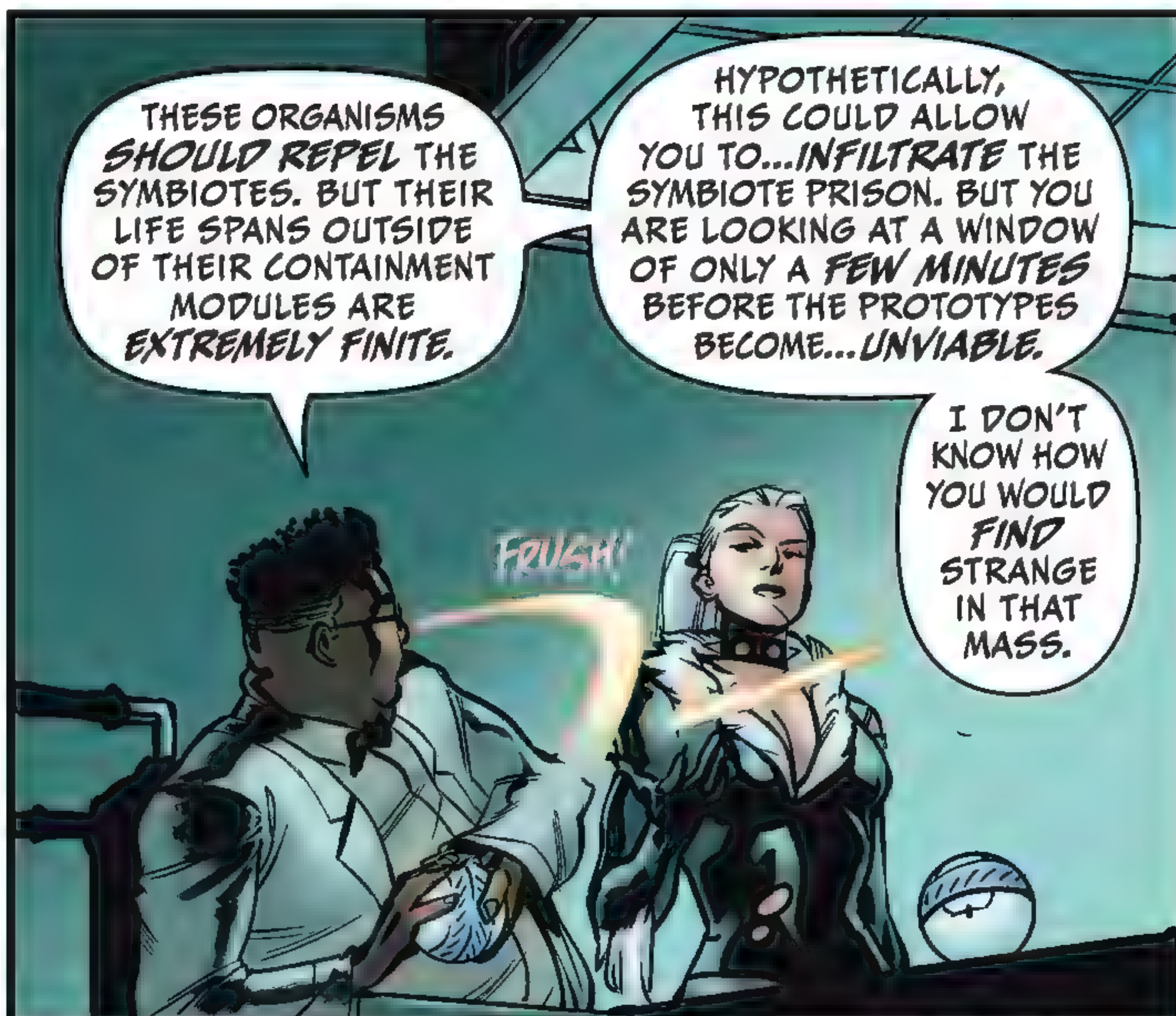
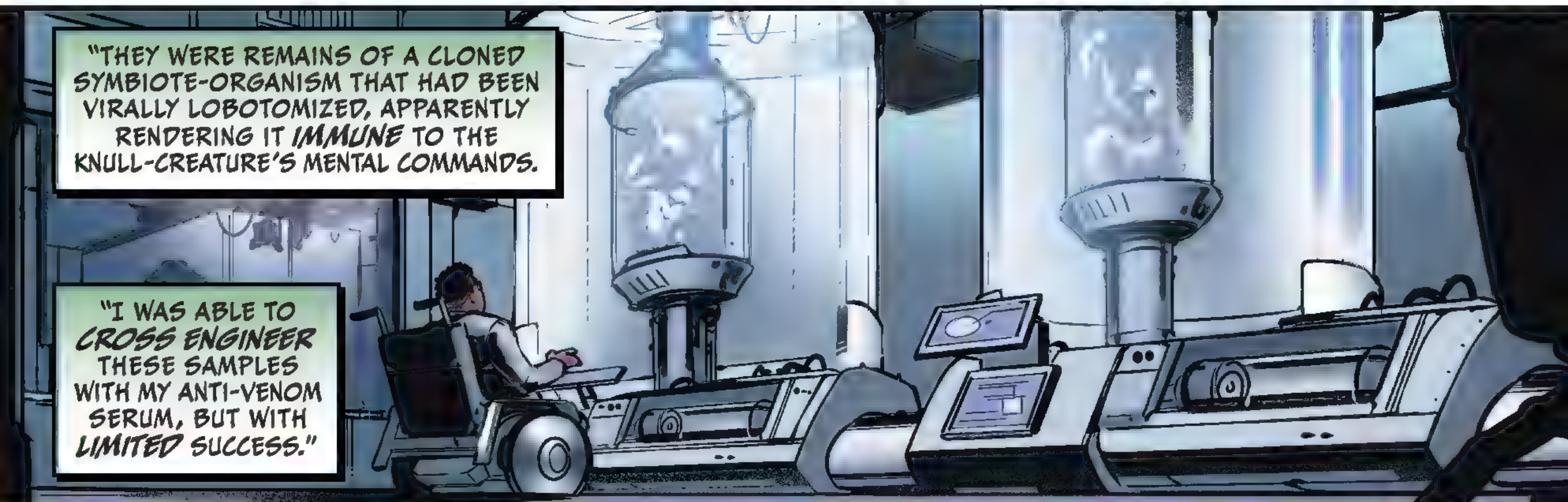
IT JUST COMES DOWN TO INFORMATION, EQUIPMENT, SKILL...

...AND LUCK.



WE'VE GOT ABOUT AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN HOPE FOR, THE SKILL, AND HOPEFULLY THE LUCK.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR US EQUIPMENT-WISE?





OH BOY!
BACK ON THE
CREW!

WELCOME
BACK, BABY.

SORRY IF
WE GOT YOU
INTO TROUBLE
LAST TIME.

THE DOC
WAS NOT
HAPPY.

BUT
WE'LL CALL IT
SQUARE WHEN WE
GET HIM OUT.



NOT A
WORD.

DIDN'T SAY
NOTHIN'.

IT IS PERFECTLY **NORMAL**
TO HAVE FRIENDS! **BATS** IS
AN **EXCELLENT** CHESS PLAYER
AND HAS **MANY** FASCINATING
INSIGHTS INTO THE WORLD
OF THE PARANORMAL.

IT'S FINE,
DOC. I'M
SURE HE'S
MAN'S BEST
FRIEND.
=>Pffftt=<

THERE!
YOU SEE?
THIS IS WHY
I CAN'T TELL
YOU PEOPLE
ABOUT MY
FRIENDS!



SO YOU
WITH ME,
BATS?

WHEN WE GET OVER THERE,
I NEED YOU TO DO YOUR
GHOST THING, PHASE
THROUGH THERE AND
FIND STRANGE.

YOU LEAD ME
TO HIM, AND
THEN WE GET
HIM OUT.

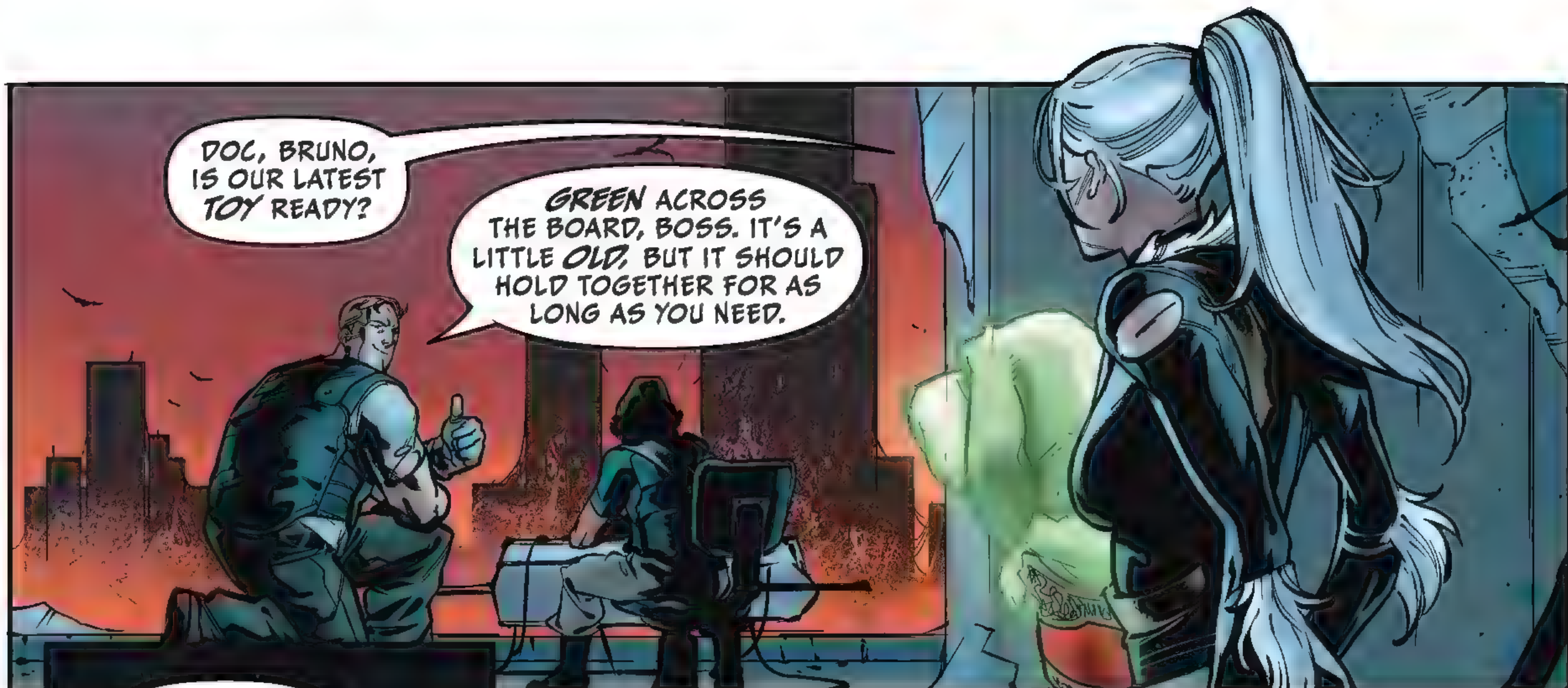


AND AFTER THAT...ARE
YOU SURE THIS **GIMMICK**
WILL **JUICE HIM UP**? GIVE
HIM THE **POWER** HE'S
GOING TO NEED?

I THINK
SO.

I MEAN,
HE USED IT TO CLOCK
LOKI ONE TIME. THERE'S
JUST A PIECE LEFT,
BUT IT **STINKS** OF
POWER.

GOOD
ENOUGH
FOR ME.



HERE
WE GO.

ON ONE OF THE
GOBLIN'S
OLD RIDES.

A GHOST DOG
STRAPPED TO
MY CHEST.

COUNTING
ON SOME
ALIEN GOO
TO PROTECT
ME FROM A
DIFFERENT
ALIEN GOO.

BREAKING
A WIZARD
OUT OF
SPACE JAIL.

IF I DIE, AT
LEAST IT'LL BE
HOW I LIVED.

OUTRAGEOUSLY.

Click!

NOW,
TO DRESS
FOR THE
OCCASION.

FSSHHH!



CRAWLING ALL
OVER ME--

--IT'S SO
GROSS--

CHILL,
FELICIA.

JUST
REMEMBER
WHAT DR.
STEVE SAID.

THE SUIT WILL
BREATHE FOR
ME, WILL KEEP
THE SYMBIOTES
OFF ME...

I JUST HAVE
TO LET IT.

BUT I CAN'T
TELL UP
FROM DOWN
IN HERE.
I'M TOTALLY
LOST, AND
IF BATS--

HEY!

I FOUND HIM!
FOLLOW ME!

AAH!

THE SUIT
DOESN'T
LIKE BEING
IN HERE.

IT'S SHUDDERING
FROM THE WAVES
OF HATRED COMING
OFF THE SYMBIOTES
AROUND US.

I'M GETTING
SECONDHAND
GOOSE BUMPS.

IT'S GROSS, BUT
IT'S HOLDING UP.

WE'RE GOING TO
PULL THIS OFF.

AND IF I EVER SEE
EDDIE BROCK
AGAIN, I'M GOING
TO PUNCH HIS
TEETH DOWN
HIS NECK.

BECAUSE I CAN
GUARANTEE
THAT ALL THIS...

...IS HIS FAULT.

THAT
STUPID
SUIT.

I HATE IT.

IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT GRIEF
FOR *EVERYONE* SINCE SPIDER
BROUGHT IT HERE FROM
WHEREVER HE WENT THAT TIME.

AND I USED TO
LIVE WITH THAT
THING. THINKING
ABOUT IT NOW
STILL GIVES ME
THE SHUDDERS.

VENOM,
CARNAGE,
MANIAC...

ALMOST THERE!
HURRY!

I'M THE
BLACK CAT--
NOT THE BLACK...
I DON'T KNOW...
BADGER.

I'M GOING
AS FAST AS
I CAN.

CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE THAT
THESE THINGS END UP WITH
STUPID BROKEN LOSERS
LIKE BROCK, KASADY AND
LEE-DAMNED-PRICE.

THERE'S
STRANGE.

THEY'VE GOT
HIM TRUSSED UP
BUT GOOD. KEEPING
HIM FROM SAYING
HIS ABRACADABRAS,
FROM GESTURING
HIS ALAKAZAAMS.

NO ANTI-VENOM
SUIT TO KEEP HIM
SAFE AND SANE.

WELL,
NOT YET.

YOU
BETTER BE
WORTH THE
FAITH CAPTAIN
AMERICA PUT IN
YOU, DOC.

STEPHEN!
WAKE
UP!

SUIT'S NOT
DOING GREAT.

GETTING
HARDER TO
BREATHE.

IT WAS NEVER
GOING TO SURVIVE
LONG, AND THE
PSYCHIC ATTACK
FROM ALL AROUND
ISN'T HELPING.

GOTTA
GET
GONE.

OKAY...
HERE WE
GO...

⇒Wheeze⇒

GET
READY,
BATS...

THIS IS
PROBABLY
GOING TO GO
REAL WILD
IN A MINUTE...

SCHLAP
PPP

THAT'S
DONE IT.

hiss!

KICKED THE
HORNET'S NEST.

BATS!

=Wheeze=

LEAD
US--

=Heff=

--OUT OF
HERE!

THAT'S THE THING
ABOUT CRACKING A
SAFE THAT'S ALIVE...

WHOAAA!

...IT TENDS
TO TAKE IT
PERSONAL.

BUT LIKE ANY DATE
GONE SOUR, YOU
MAKE SURE TO HAVE
AN EXIT STRATEGY...

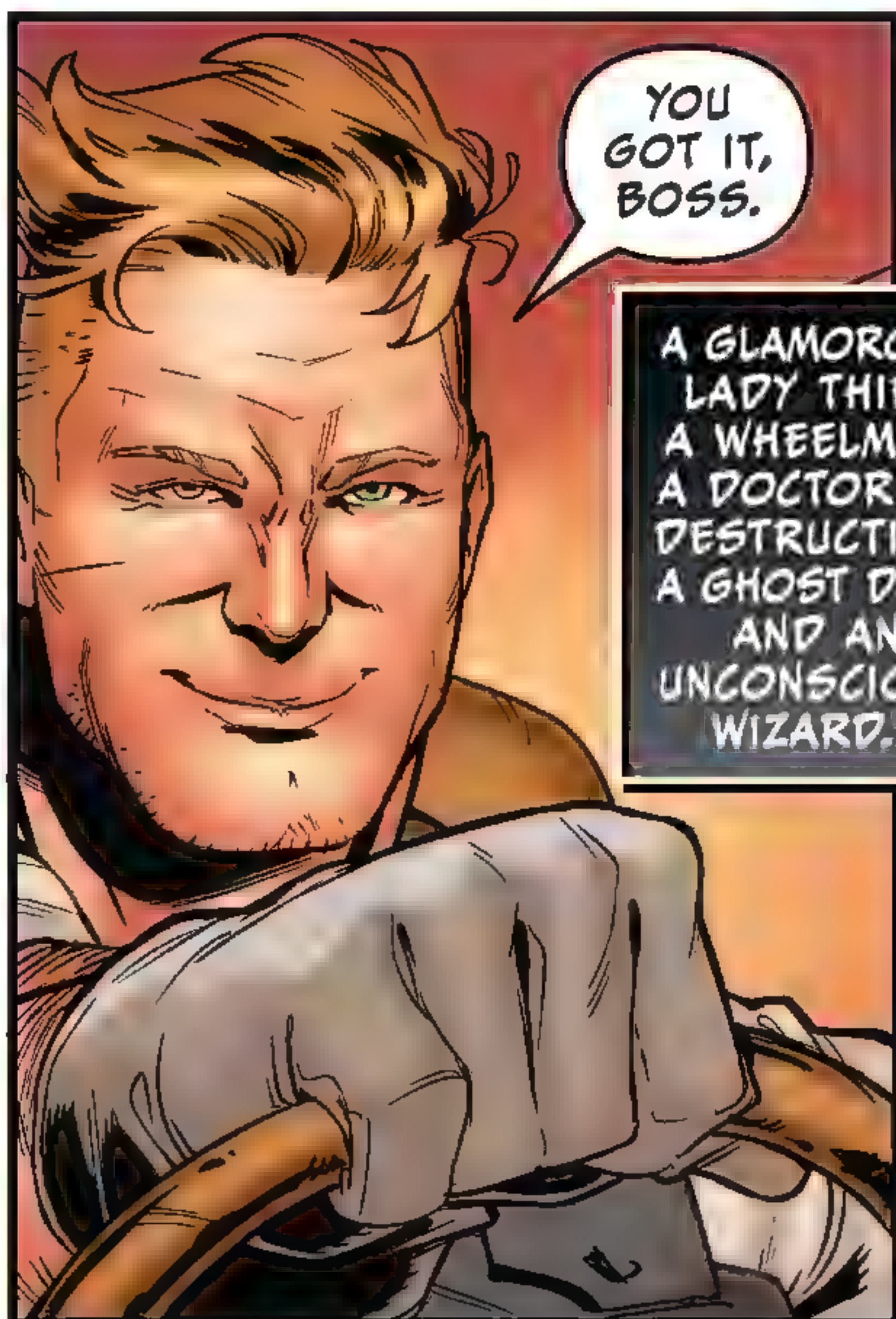
WHOOOF!

YO!
TAXI!

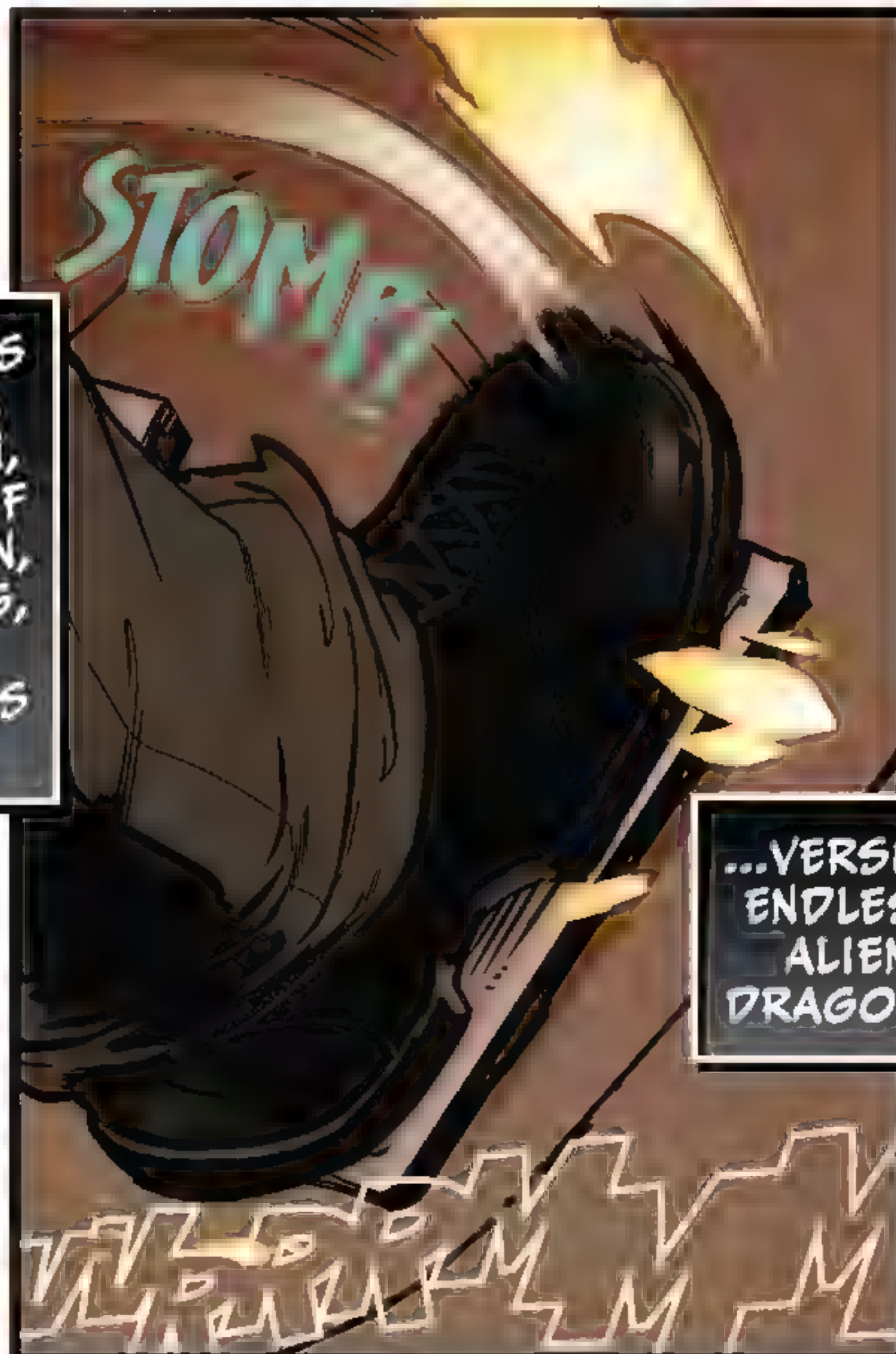
...PREFERABLY
A FAST CAR.

GOTCHA,
BOSS!

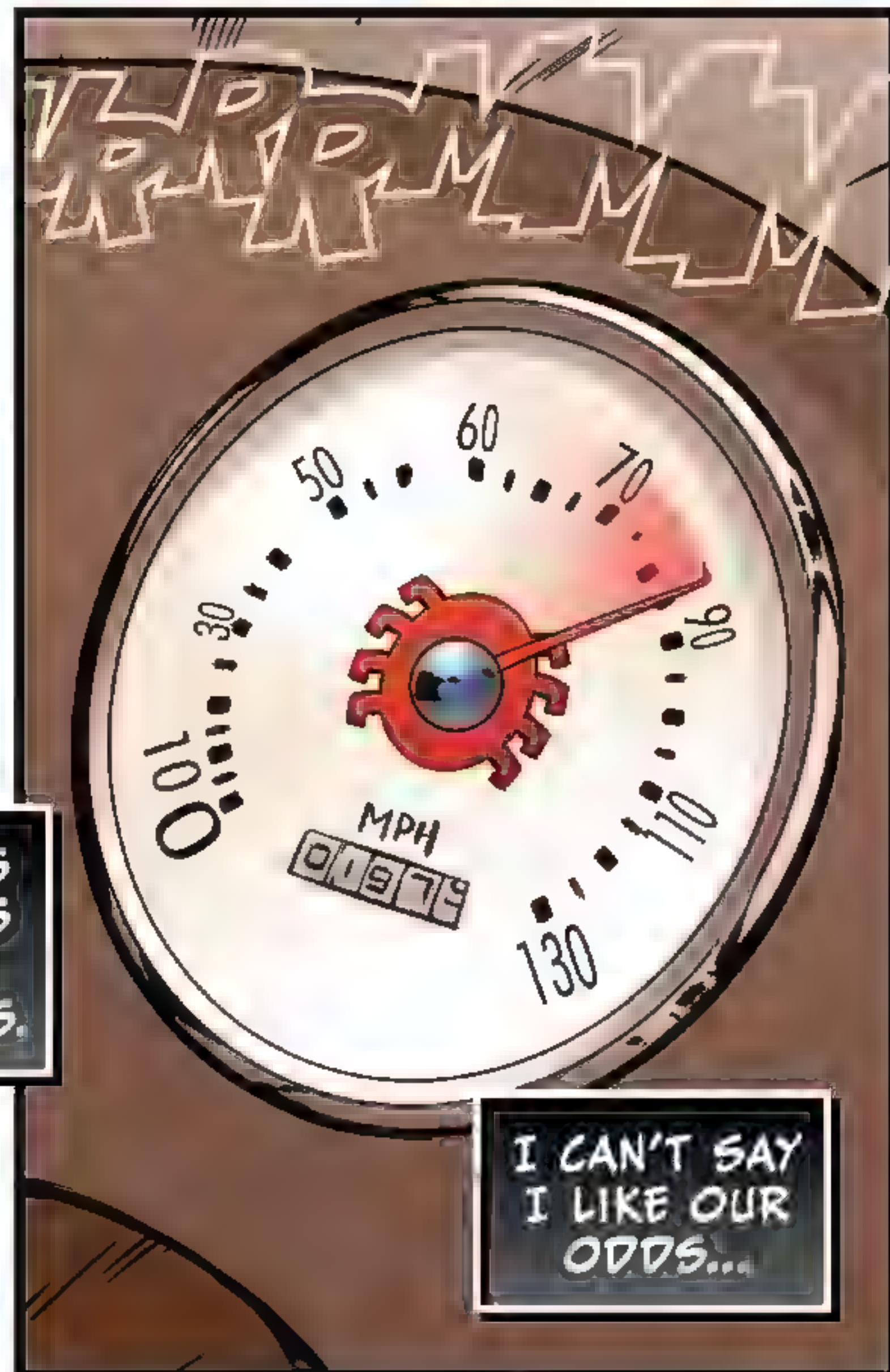
WHOOO!



A GLAMOROUS
LADY THIEF,
A WHEELMAN,
A DOCTOR OF
DESTRUCTION,
A GHOST DOG,
AND AN
UNCONSCIOUS
WIZARD...



...VERSUS
ENDLESS
ALIEN
DRAGONS.





...BUT THEY'RE THE
BEST ONES
WE'RE GOING TO GET.

WATCH
YOUR
EYES!

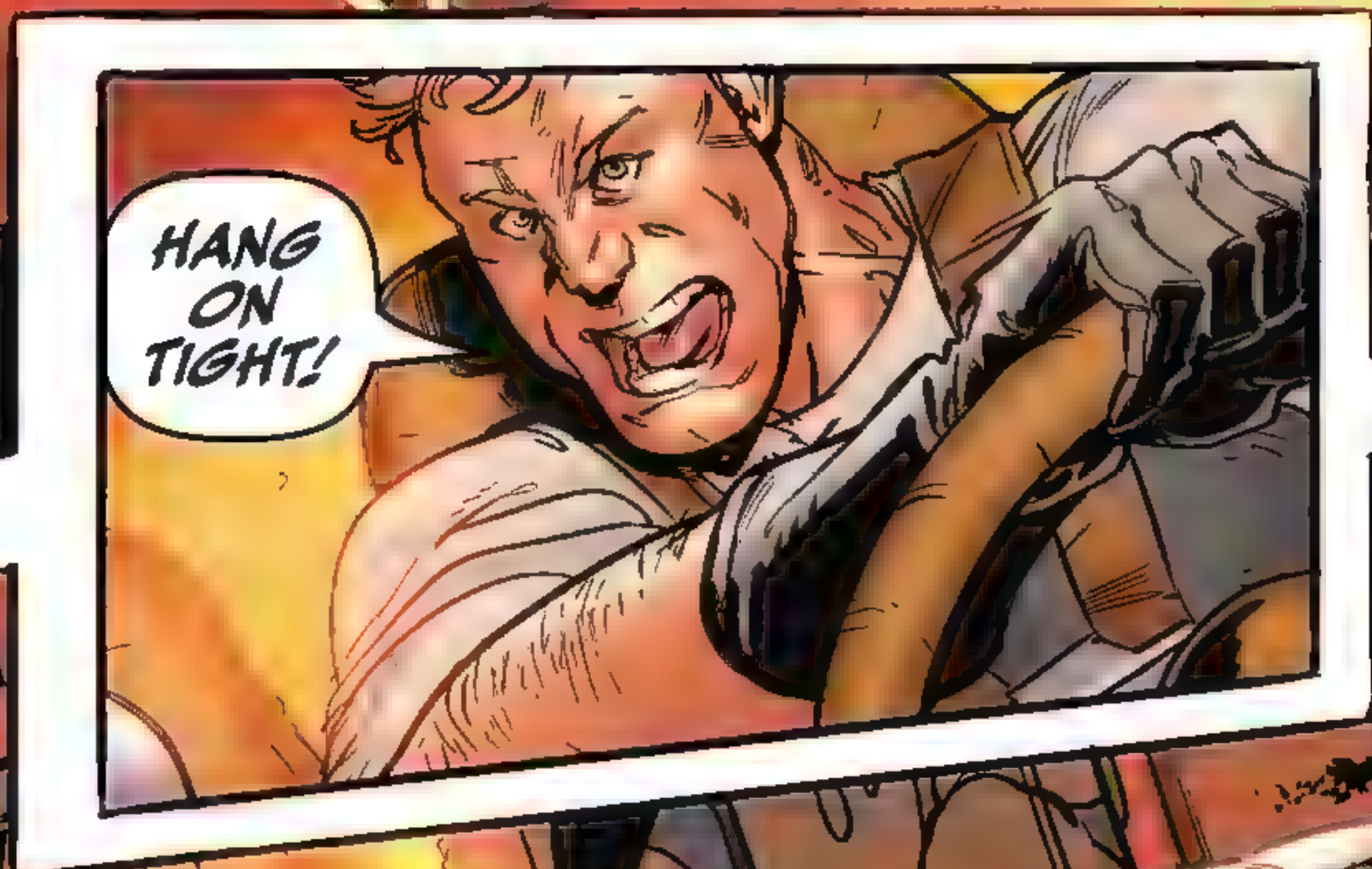


AND NOTHING
EVEN ODDS
LIKE DOC'S
HOME-COOKED
EXPLOSIVES.



DR. STEVE
SAID THEY
DON'T LIKE
LIGHT.

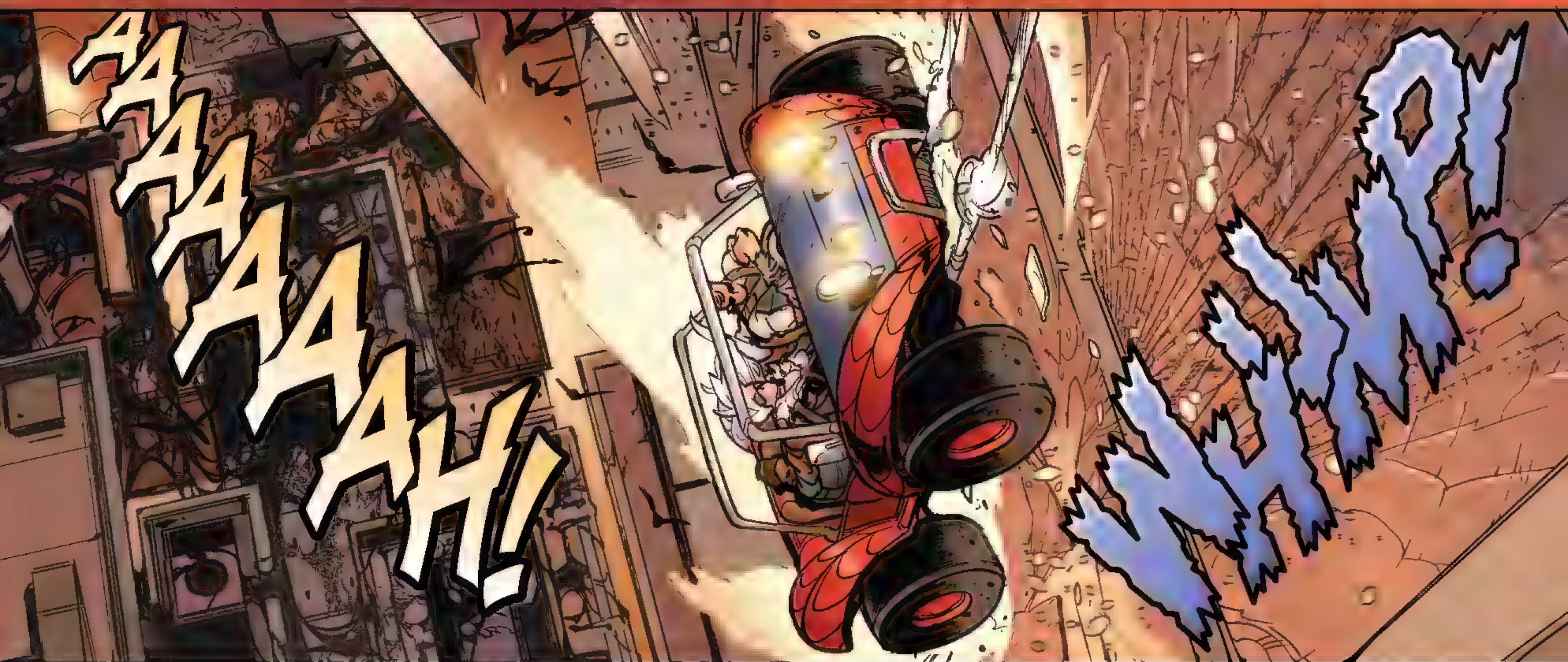
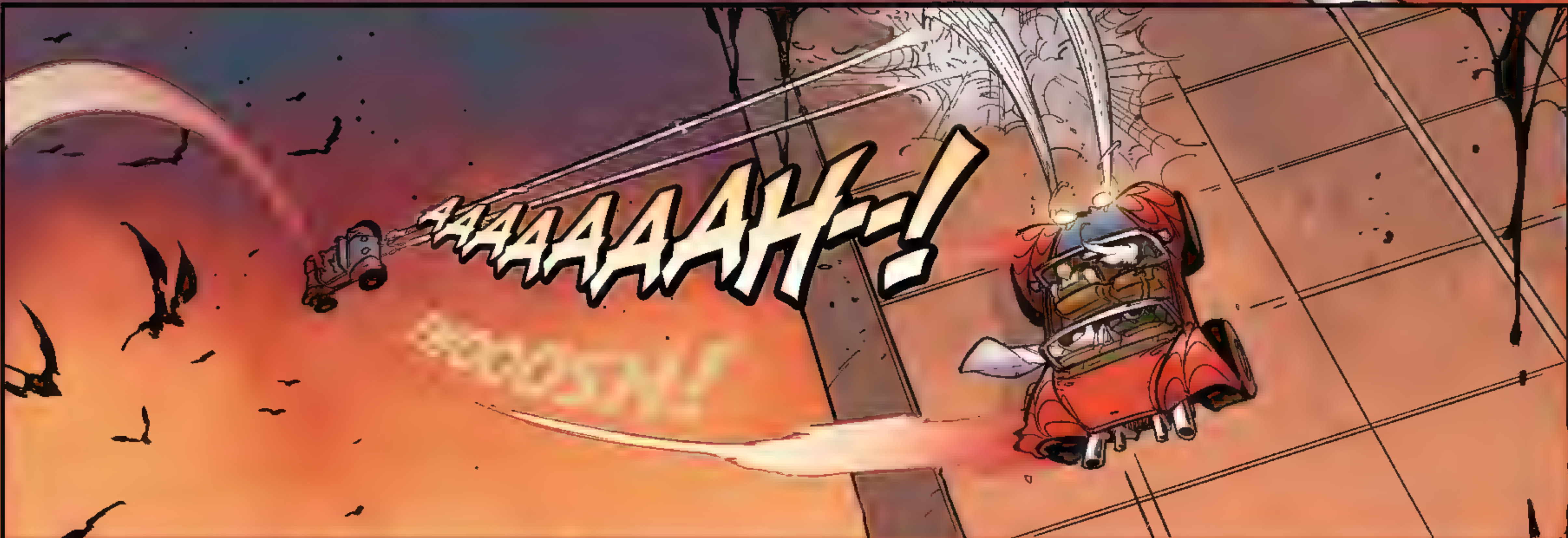
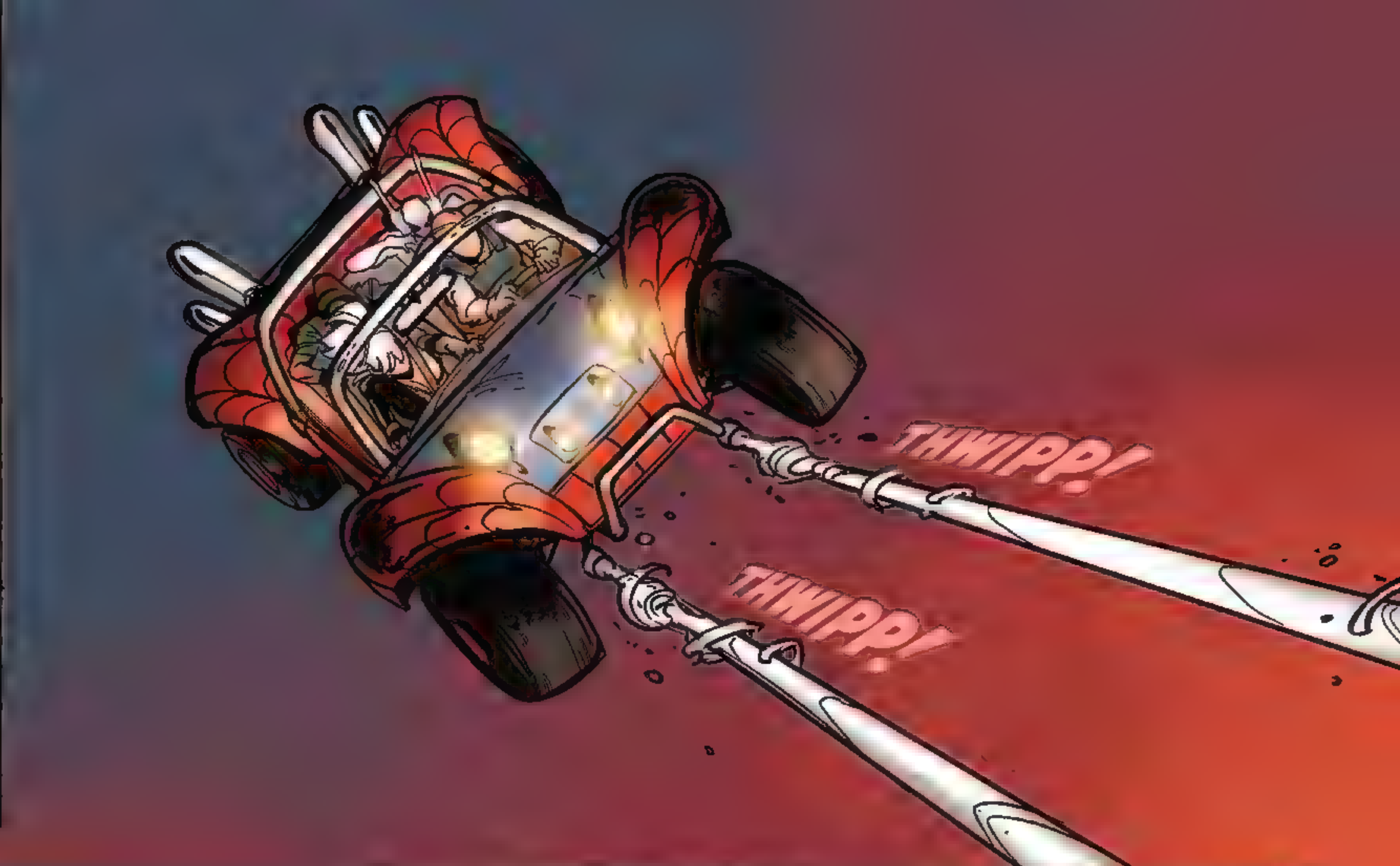
SO I LIGHT
'EM UP.

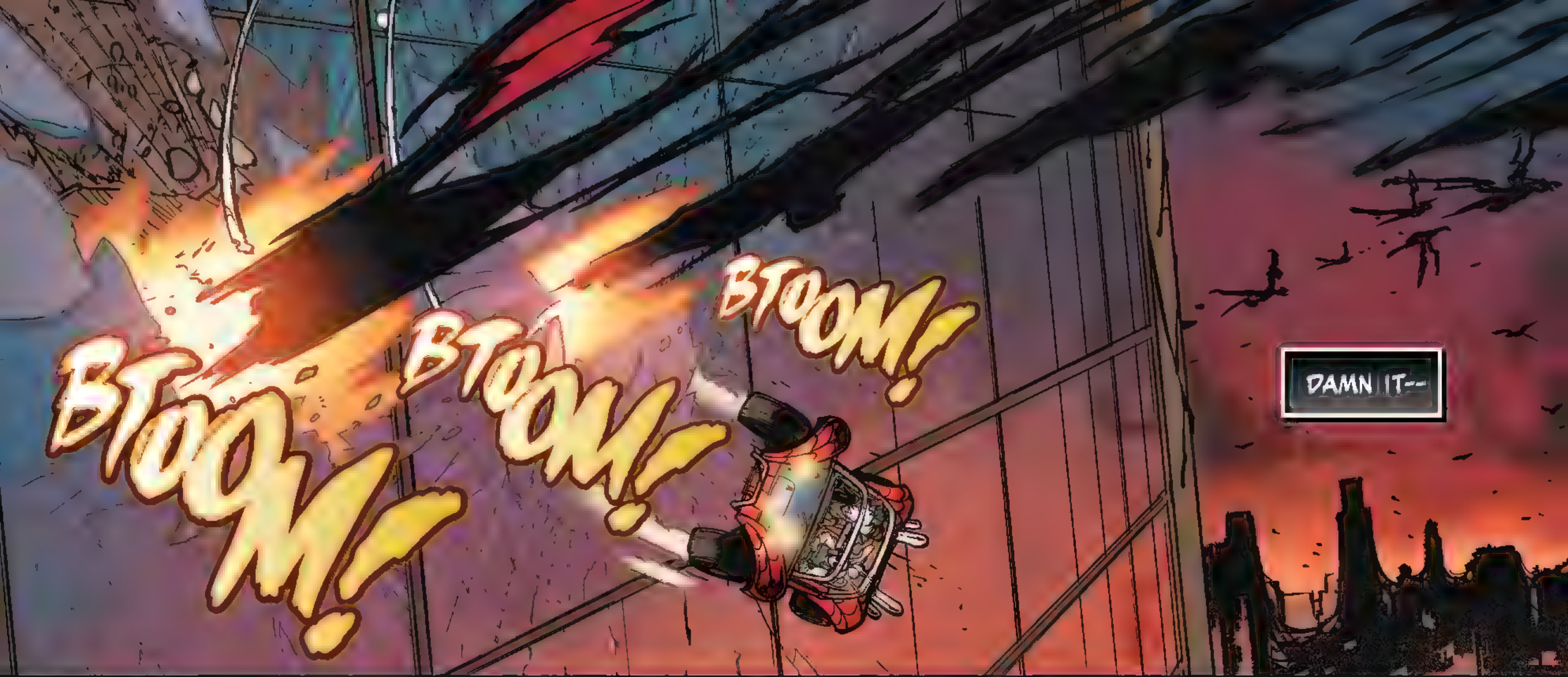


HANG
ON
TIGHT!



44444444!!





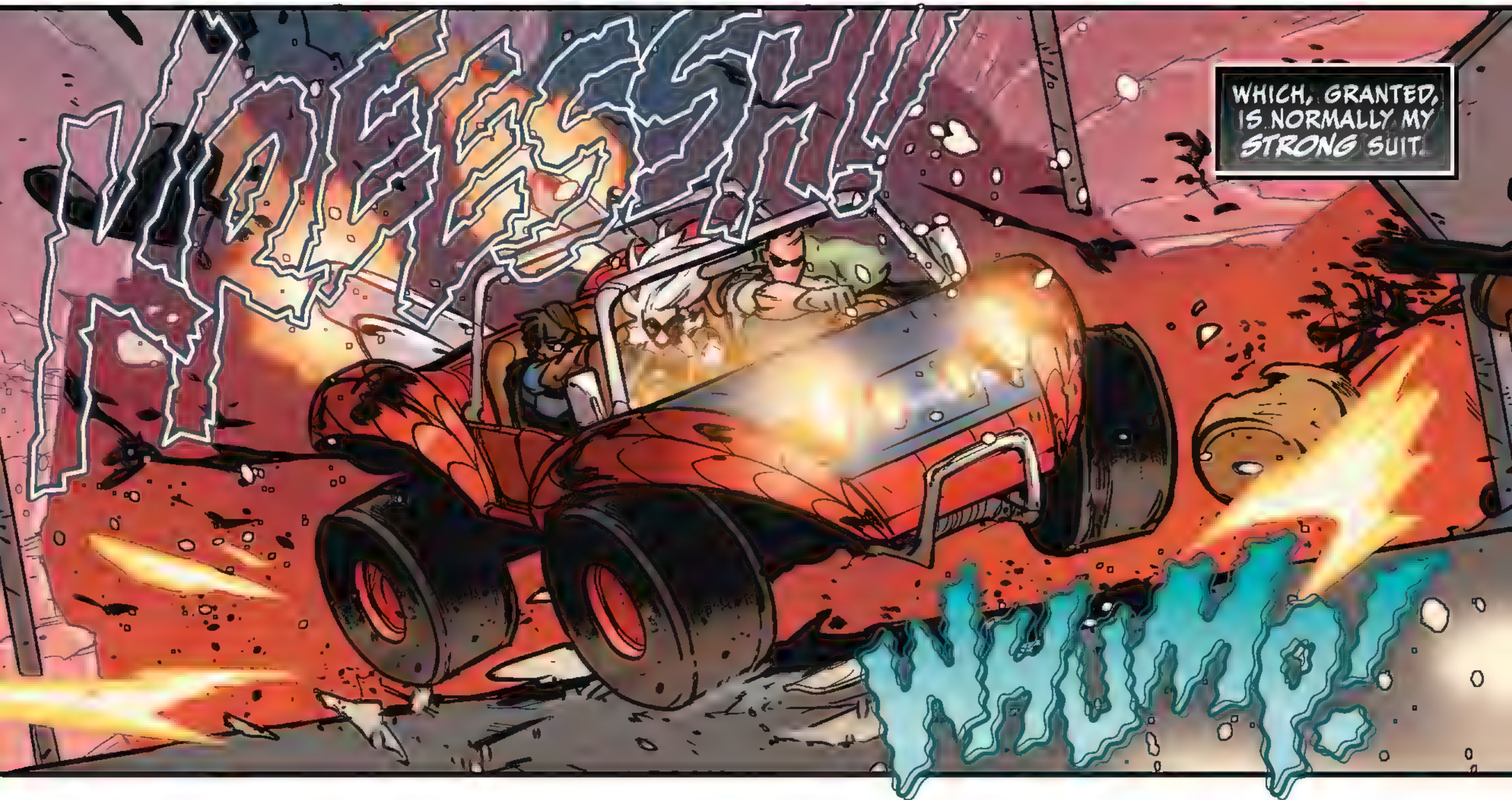
DAMN IT--



IF HE'S
NOT AWAKE,
HE CAN'T USE
THE THING
AND SAVE OUR
BUTTS--



--SO
THAT MEANS
WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
IMPROVISE.



WHICH, GRANTED,
IS NORMALLY MY
STRONG SUIT.



BUT I HAVE
ALIEN STUFF
ON ONE SIDE
AND MAGIC
STUFF ON
THE OTHER...

WAAAAH!!!



...AND EXCUSE ME
IF IT'S BEEN A
REALLY LONG NIGHT.

KRAASHH!!

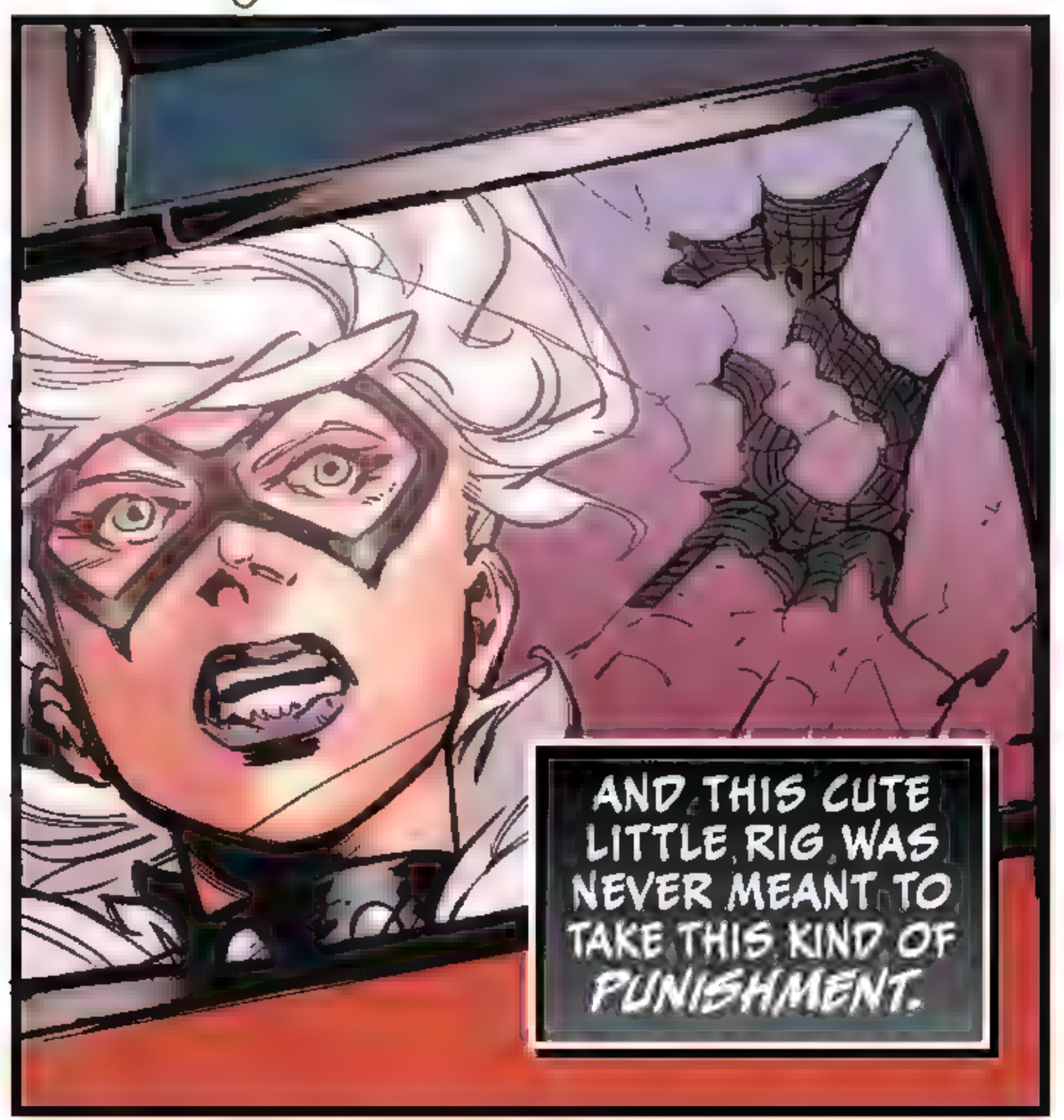


WAKE-- --YOU-- --CHARLATAN!

--UP--

SLAP!!

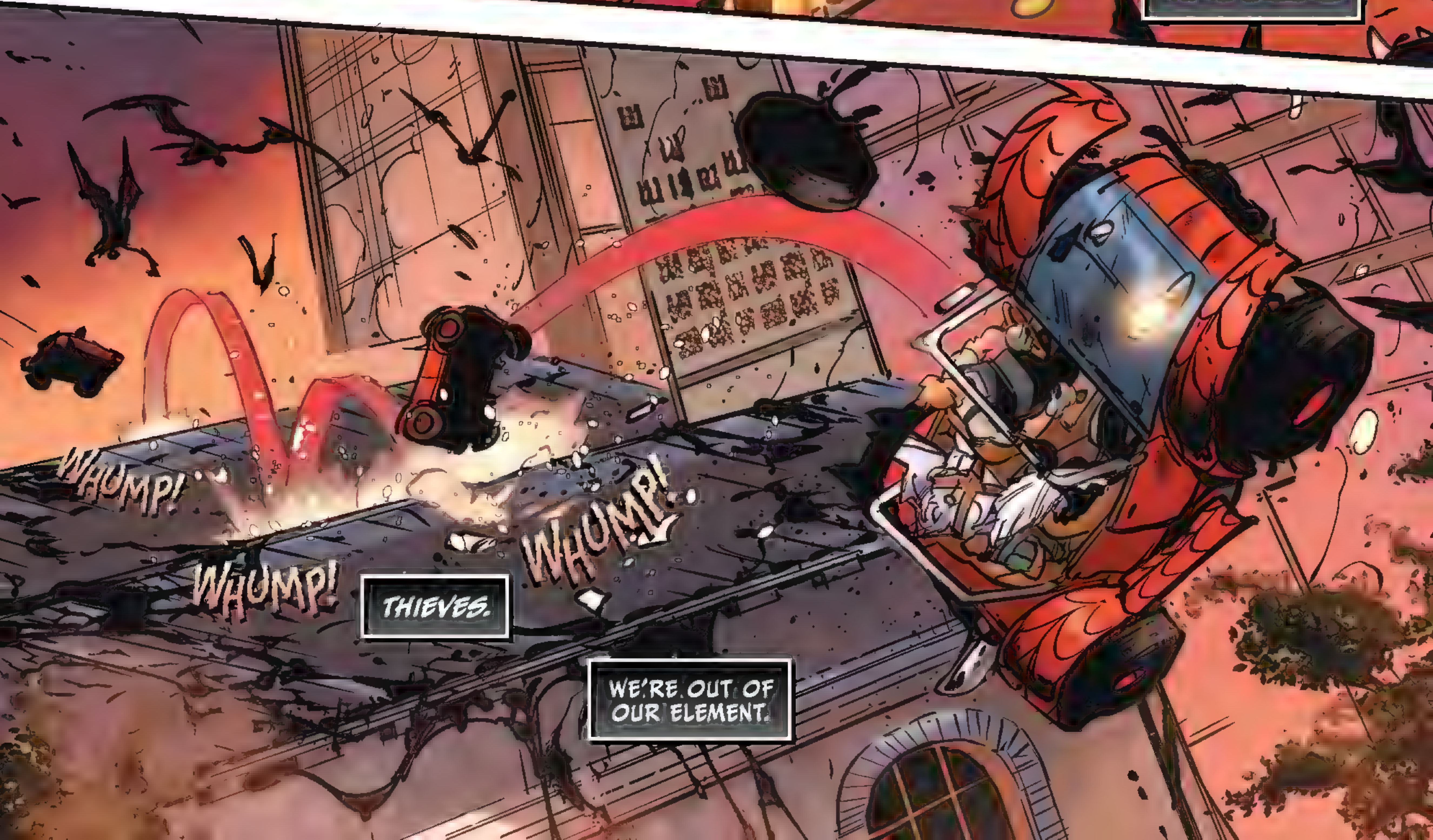
DOC!
YOU GOTTA
WAKE UP!



AND THIS CUTE
LITTLE RIG WAS
NEVER MEANT TO
TAKE THIS KIND OF
PUNISHMENT.

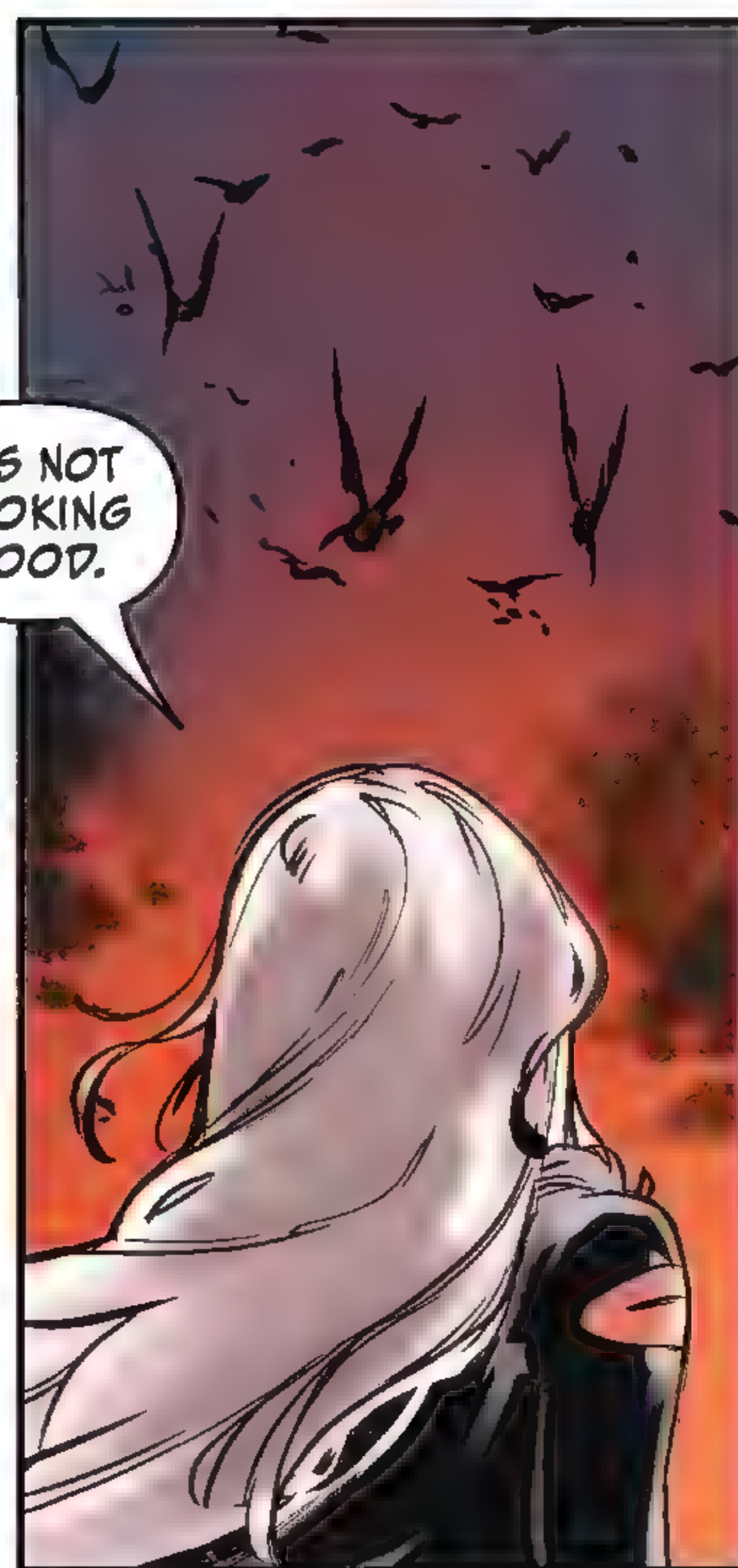


NONE OF US ARE,
NOT REALLY.



THIEVES.

WE'RE OUT OF
OUR ELEMENT.





AND WE NEVER
EVEN GOT TO SEE
STRANGE USE HIS
MAGIC WAND.



HEY.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK WOULD
HAPPEN IF I TRIED
TO USE IT?



Oh
MAN.

I DON'T
KNOW IF
THAT'S SUCH
A GOOD
IDEA.



I'M WITH THE
POOCH, BOSS.
IT'S TOO RISKY
FOR YOU.

HARDY,
DON'T YOU
DARE--

WE CAN
TRY AND
SHOOT
OUR WAY
OUT--



WE CAN'T
SHOOT THESE
THINGS DOWN,
NOT ENOUGH GUN.
AND I GOT US
INTO THIS.

BATS?

Y-YEAH?



WHERE'D
YOU SAY THIS
THING CAME
FROM?

SCRAK!



"ASGARD."

BARRI DOOM!



Oh.

Oh,
I SEE.



Huh?
I GUESS
THAT DIDN'T
WORK. SO
AM I--



--DEAD?



NO,
DARLING--
NOTHING SO
DRAMATIC.



AAH!





FOX?

WHERE
ARE WE?
WHAT'S
GOING--

I AM
NOT THE
BLACK
FOX.

THIS IS JUST
A FAMILIAR
SHAPE, ONE
WHICH I MIGHT
USE TO SPEAK
WITH YOU.

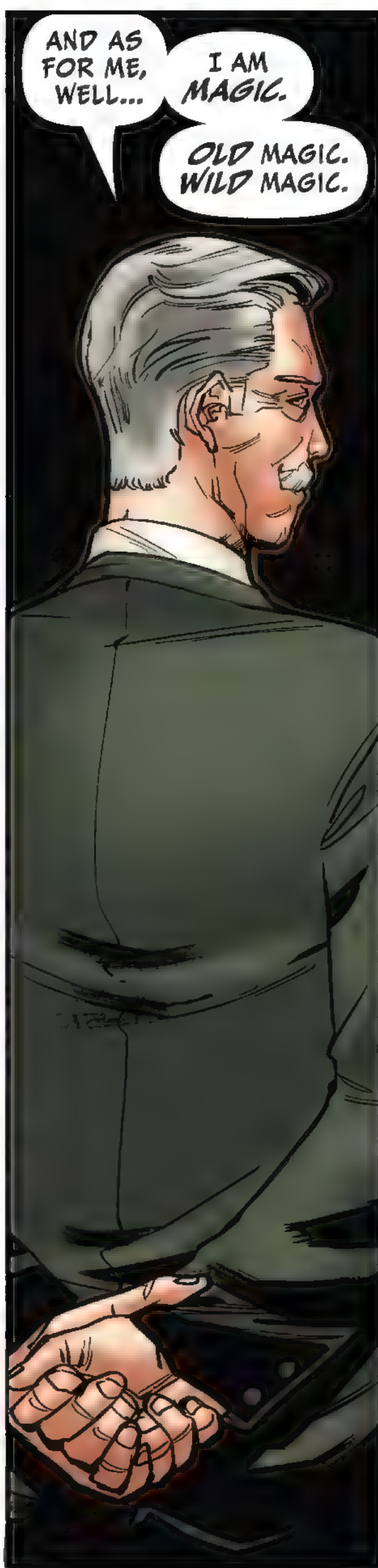
OKAY, PAL,
WHAT'S THE
GAG?

WHO THE
HELL ARE YOU,
AND WHERE ARE
MY GUYS?



CALL THIS A...
PARTITION OF YOUR
CONSCIOUSNESS.

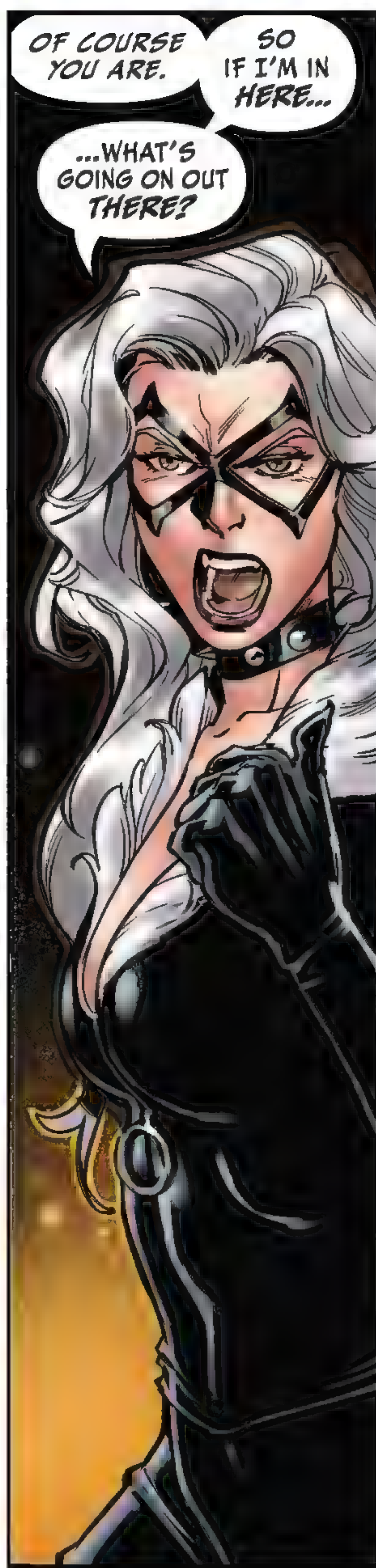
A LITTLE SPACE
IN YOUR MIND WHERE
WE MIGHT HAVE A...
CONVERSATION.



AND AS
FOR ME,
WELL...

I AM
MAGIC.

OLD MAGIC.
WILD MAGIC.



OF COURSE
YOU ARE.

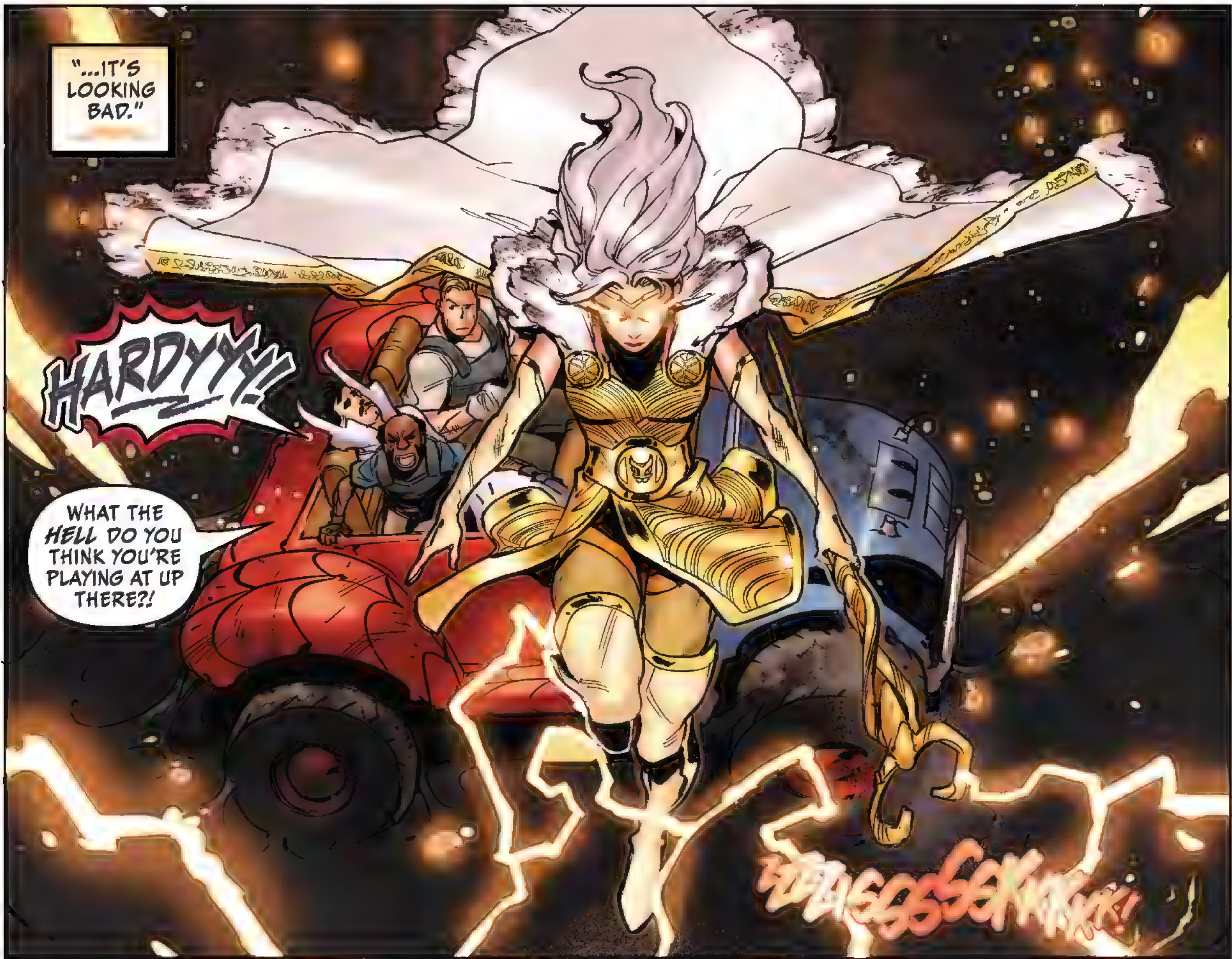
SO
IF I'M IN
HERE...

...WHAT'S
GOING ON OUT
THERE?



IN
REALITY?

I WON'T
LIE TO YOU,
DARLING...



I NEED TO GET BACK.

HEY!

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? SEND ME BACK!

NOT UNTIL YOU'VE HEARD WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

AS I SAID BEFORE, I REPRESENT MAGIC. EXTREMELY OLD MAGIC. EXTREMELY WILD MAGIC.

IN TAKING THE FRAGMENT OF YGGDRASIL, YOU EFFECTIVELY GRIPPED A LIVE WIRE. AND THROUGH THAT LIVE WIRE, RUNS MAGIC.

I'LL BITE. SO WHAT DOES MAGIC WANT WITH ME?

I WANT YOU TO SAY YES.

YES?

MAGIC IS GOVERNED BY RULES.

I WANT TO BE FREE, TO BURN BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL AND CARVE MY MARK ACROSS CREATION.

BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I REQUIRE A CONDUIT. ONE THAT CAN PROVIDE CONSENT.

Oh YEAH?

AND WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME, CHUMLEY?

POWER.

THE POWER OF CREATION ITSELF.

OKAY. SAY I'M INTERESTED.

YOU'VE GOT TO BUY ME DINNER FIRST, SAILOR.

I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL.

YOU MOST ASSUREDLY ARE.



TALK IS
CHEAP, BABY--
AND I HAVE
EXPENSIVE
TASTES.

SO
GIVE ME A
TASTE.

WHAT DO YOU
SUGGEST?



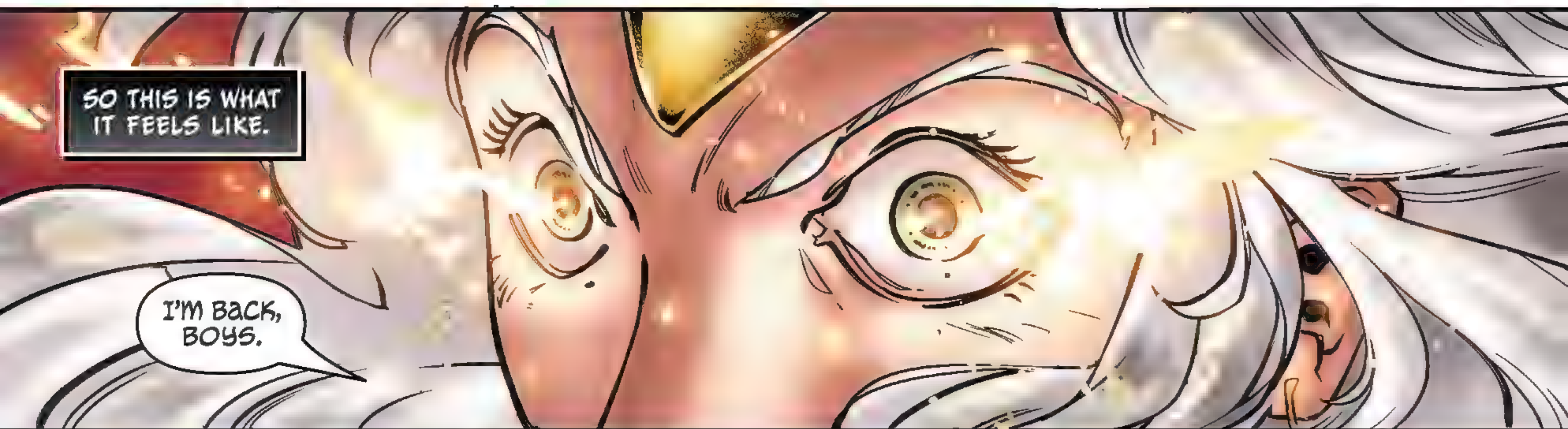
MY GUYS ARE
SITTING DUCKS
OUT THERE, AND
THAT'S ON ME.

THOSE
DRAGONS ARE
COMING TO PICK
US OFF.



I WANT
TO PUNISH
THEM.

SPLENDID.



SO THIS IS WHAT
IT FEELS LIKE.

I'M BACK,
BOYS.



A HANDSHAKE WITH
A HYDROGEN BOMB.

and
EVERYTHING'S
GOING TO BE
OKAY.

I'VE GOT ALL THE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE BURNING IN MY BLOOD.

WAAAAH!

THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES CRASHING IN MY EARS.

MY KILLING INTENT IS A FORCE OF NATURE. A LAW OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHO COULD SAY NO TO THIS?

I'VE GOT ALL THE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE BURNING IN MY BLOOD.

WAAAA

THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES CRASHING IN MY EARS.

MY KILLING INTENT IS A FORCE OF NATURE. A LAW OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHO COULD SAY NO TO THIS?

I'VE GOT ALL THE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE BURNING IN MY BLOOD.

BOOM!

THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES CRASHING IN MY EARS.

MY KILLING INTENT IS A FORCE OF NATURE. A LAW OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHO COULD SAY NO TO THIS?

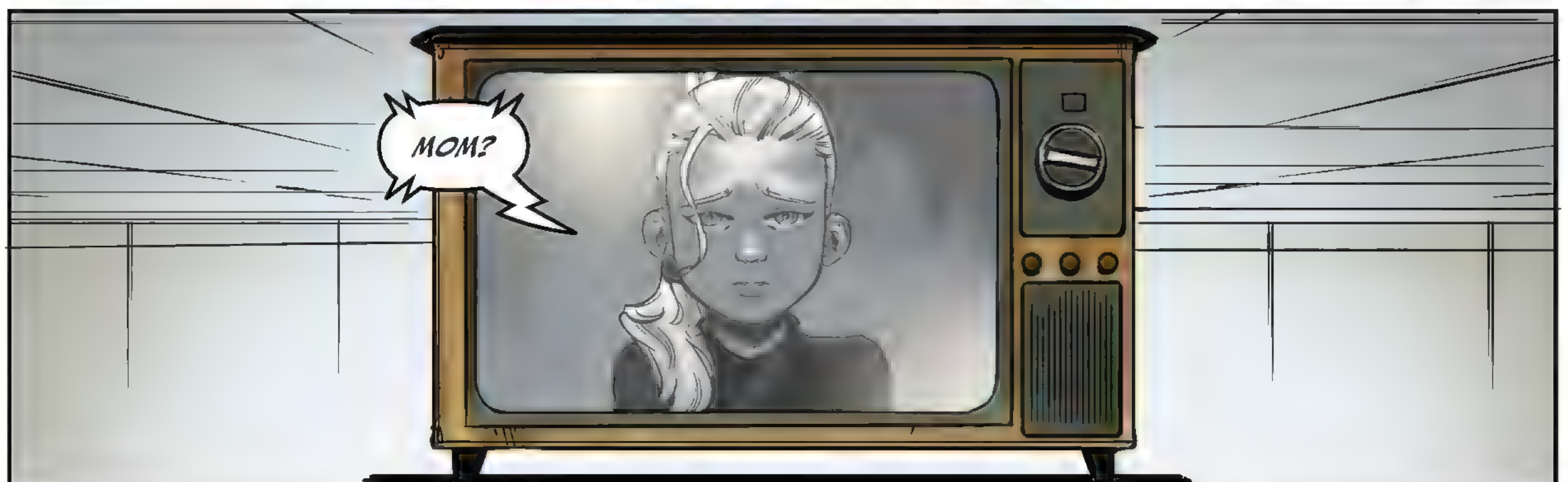
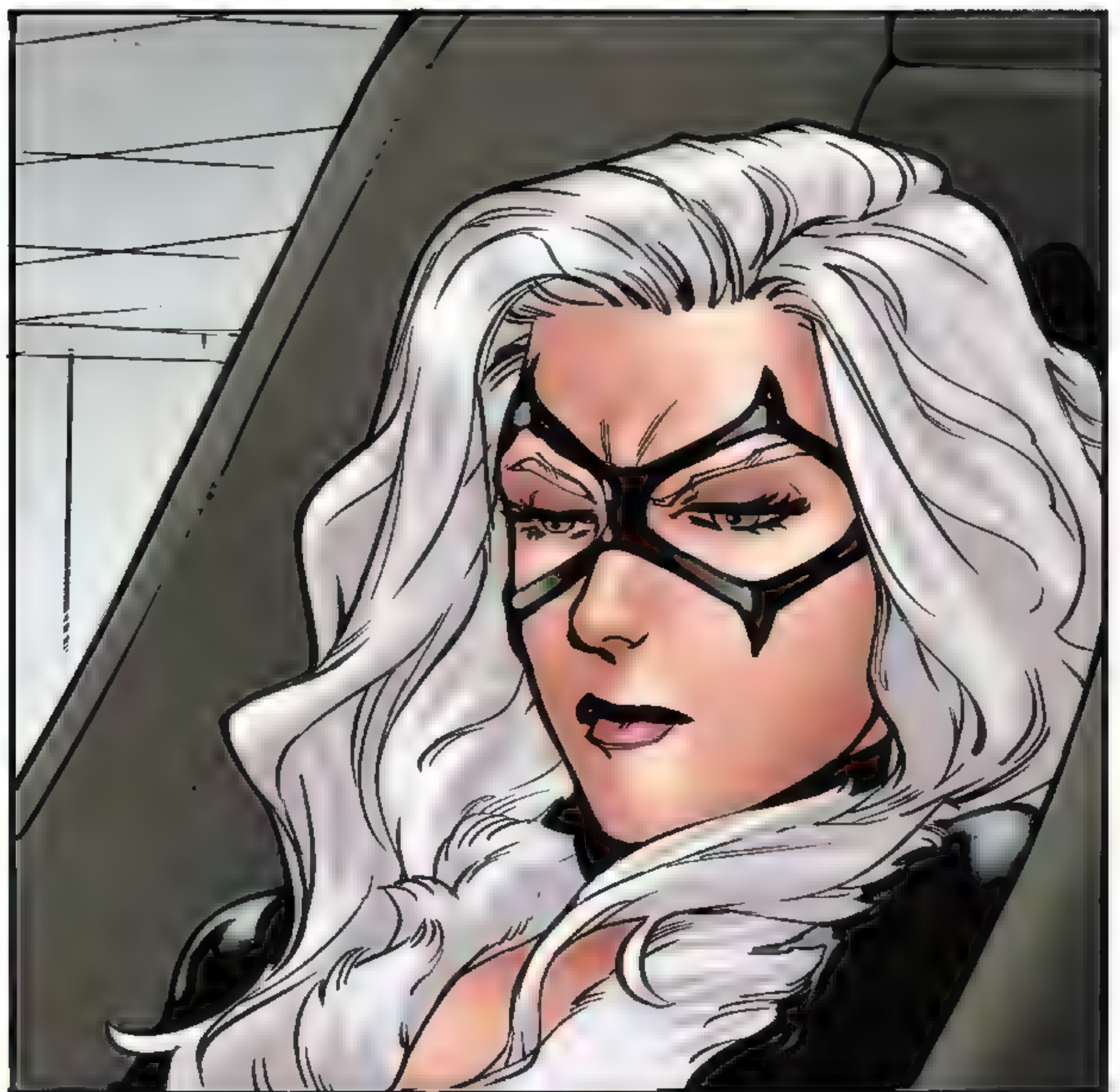
I'VE GOT ALL THE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE BURNING IN MY BLOOD.

WAAAAH!

THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES CRASHING IN MY EARS.

MY KILLING INTENT IS A FORCE OF NATURE. A LAW OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHO COULD SAY NO TO THIS?



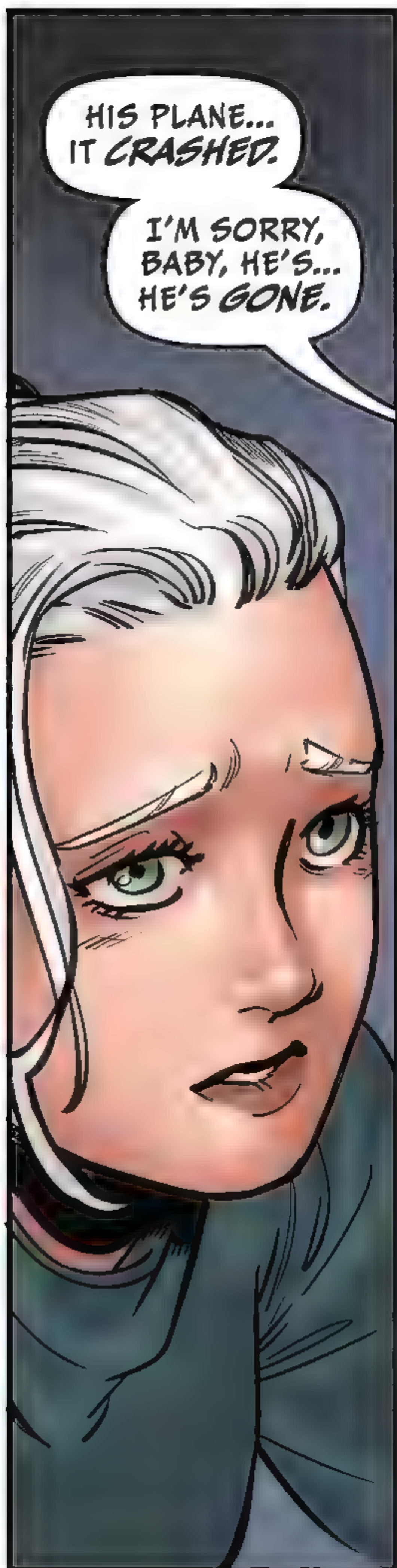


MOM?

WHAT'S
WRONG?
WHAT IS IT?
MOM!

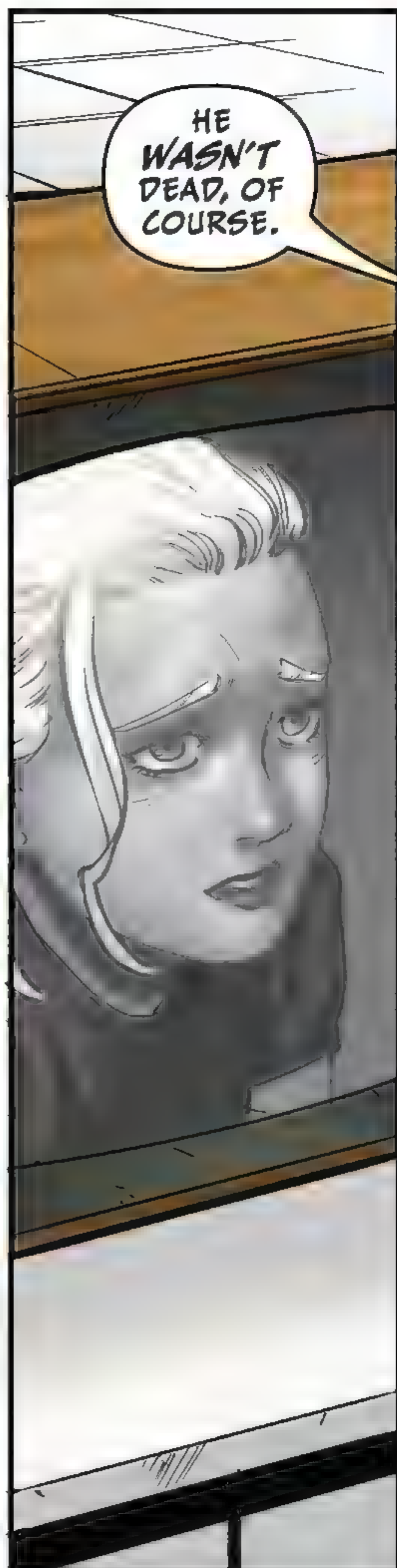
FELICIA...

IT'S YOUR
FATHER.

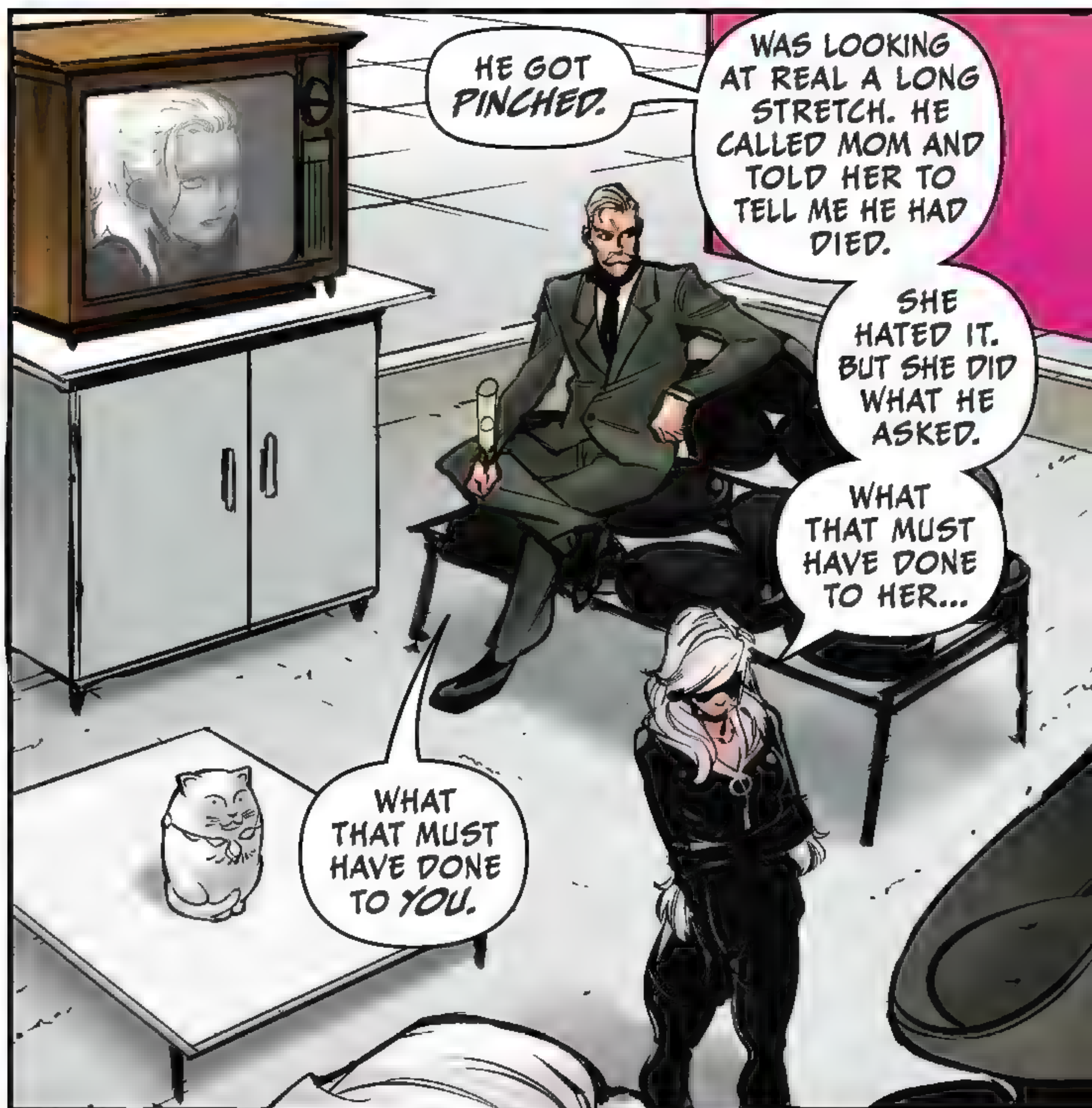


HIS PLANE...
IT **CRASHED**.

I'M SORRY,
BABY, HE'S...
HE'S **GONE**.



HE
WASN'T
DEAD, OF
COURSE.



HE GOT
PINCHED.

WAS LOOKING
AT REAL A LONG
STRETCH. HE
CALLED MOM AND
TOLD HER TO
TELL ME HE HAD
DIED.

SHE
HATED IT.
BUT SHE DID
WHAT HE
ASKED.

WHAT
THAT MUST
HAVE DONE
TO HER...

WHAT
THAT MUST
HAVE DONE
TO YOU.



I WAS FINE.
I LIVED.

AND I GOT
HIM OUT JAIL,
SO HE COULD
DIE IN HIS
OWN BED.



"YES."

"YOU ALWAYS LIVE, DON'T YOU?"

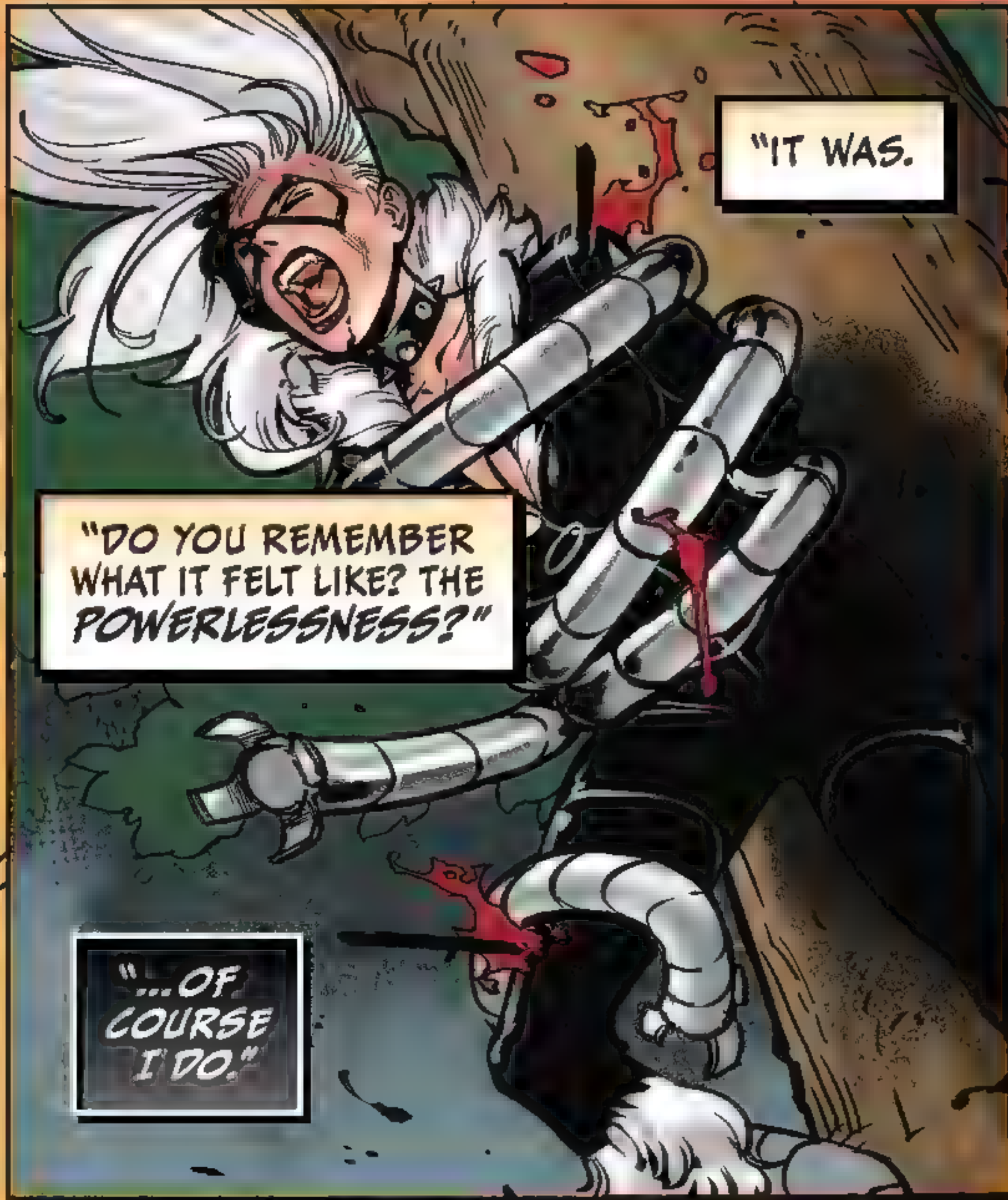
"YOU LIVE, BUT YOU ARE ALWAYS HURT. BADLY HURT."



"LIKE THE GANG WAR BETWEEN THE OWL AND DOCTOR OCTOPUS."



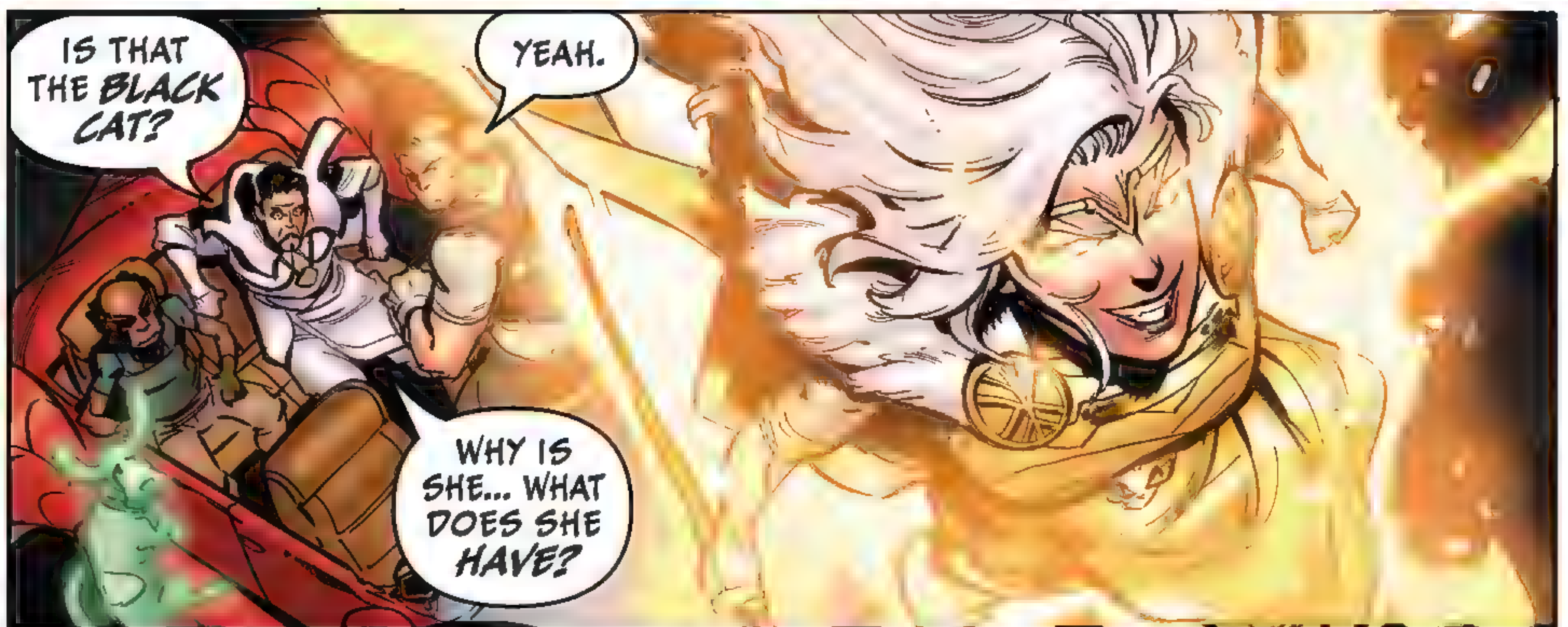
THAT...
THAT WAS A BAD NIGHT.

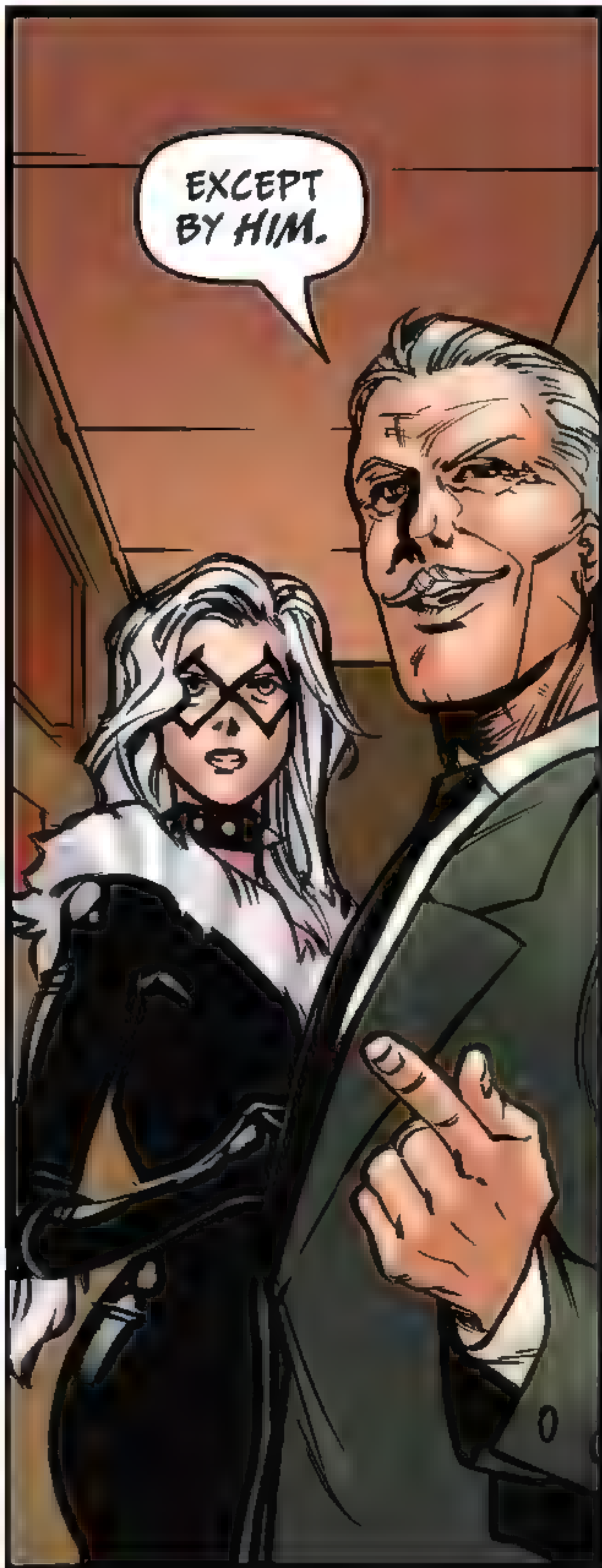
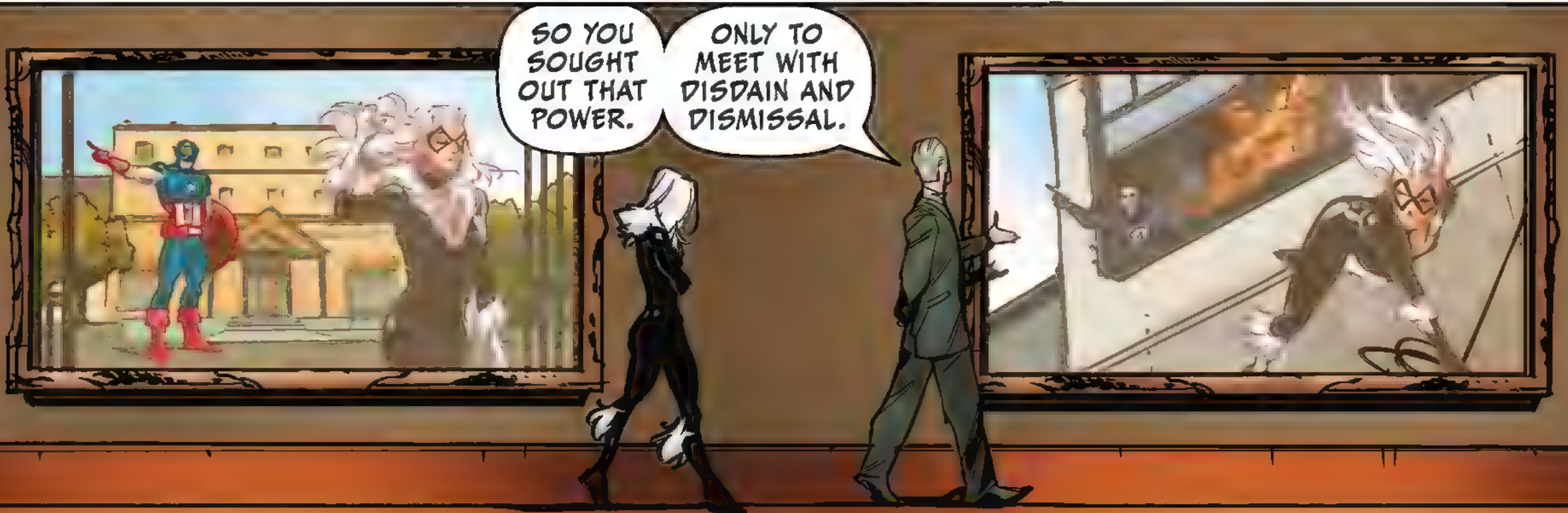
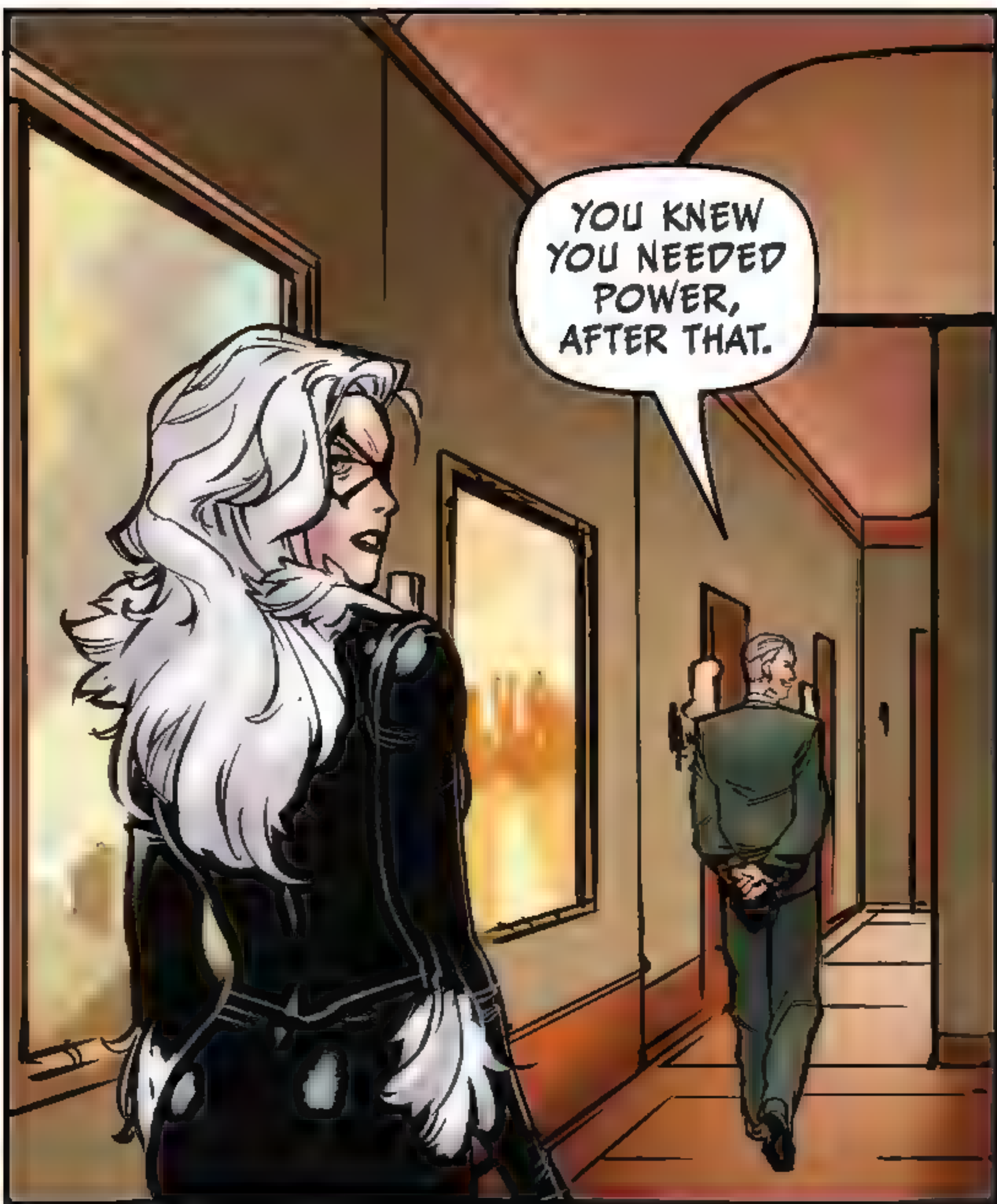


"IT WAS."

"DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT IT FELT LIKE? THE POWERLESSNESS?"

"...OF COURSE I DO."





"LOOK,
I DIDN'T
KNOW..."

"BUT IT DIDN'T
MATTER, DID
IT? NOT TO
SPIDER-MAN."

THIS IS
EXTREMELY
BAD.

I'LL TAKE
IT OFF HER. I
DON'T CARE WHAT
HAPPENS, SO
LONG AS SHE'S
OKAY.

IT'S
NOT THAT
SIMPLE.

SHE IS CHANNELING
THE **RAW POWER
OF CREATION**, WHICH
IS AS UTTERLY AMORAL
AND DESTRUCTIVE AS
A HURRICANE. AS AN
ATOMIC BOMB.

SHE
MUST PUT IT
DOWN OF HER
OWN ACCORD
BEFORE SHE IS
OVERWHELMED.
AND IF SHE IS
OVERWHELMED,
WELL...

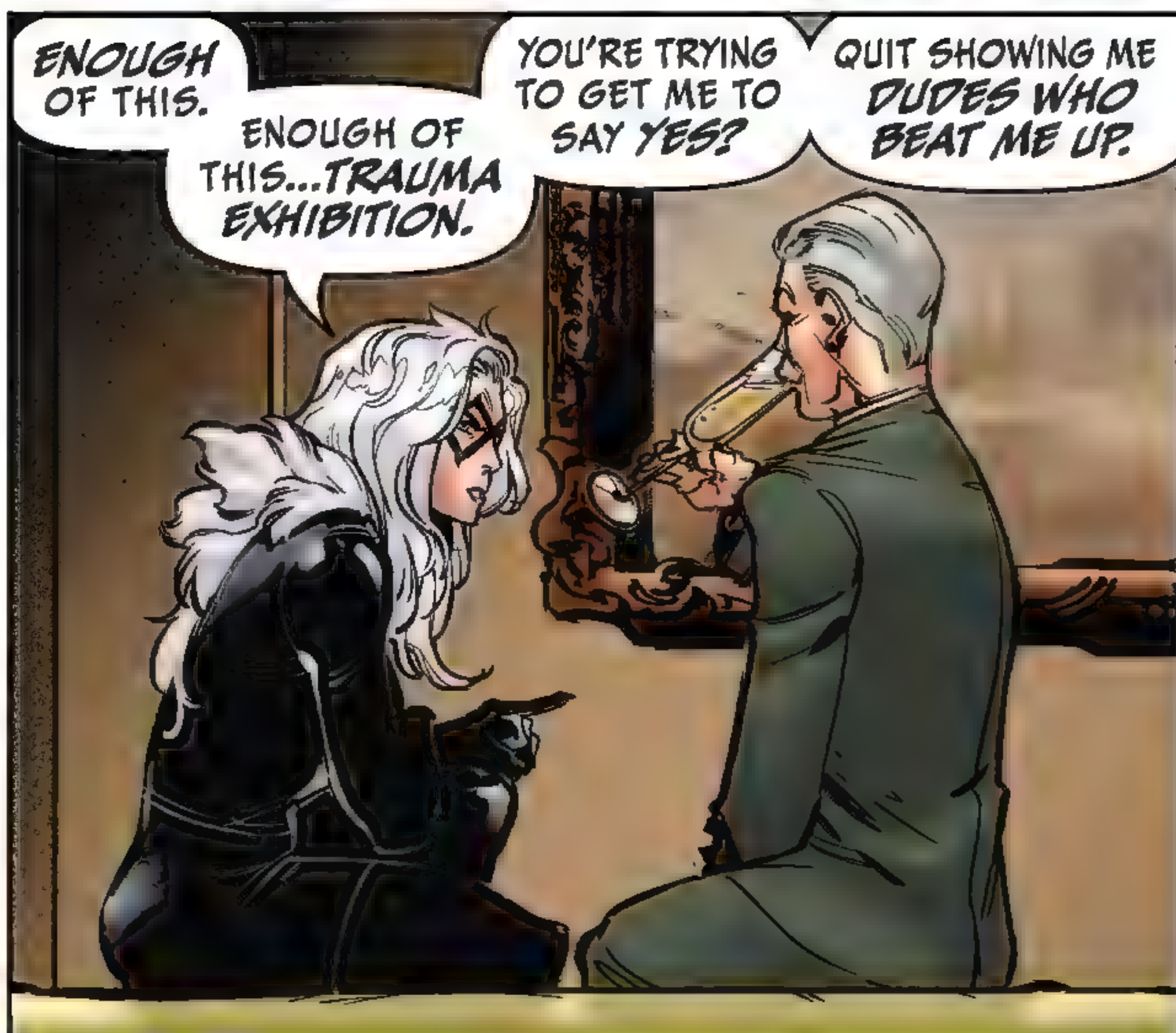
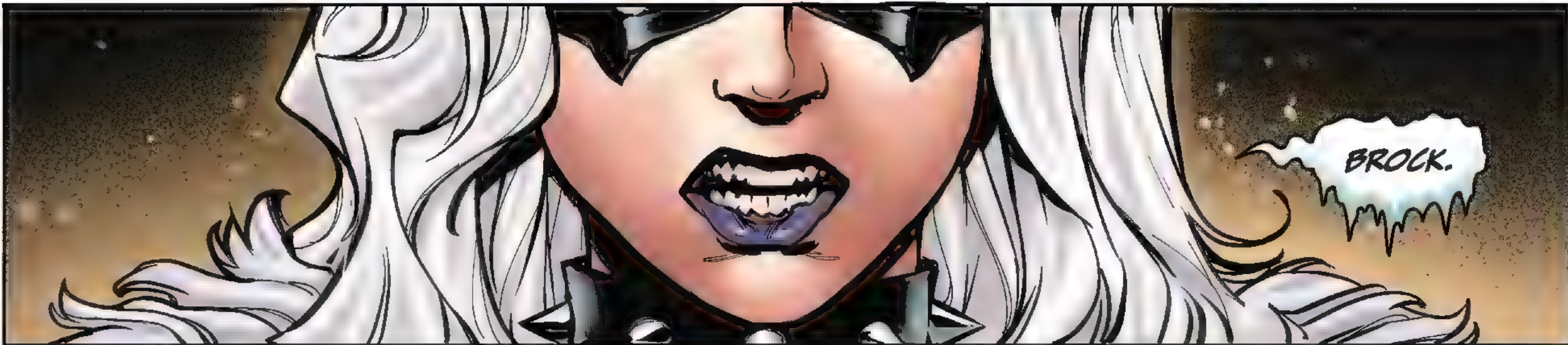
...WE
WILL HAVE
CREATED
A DANGER
FAR WORSE
THAN WHAT
WE WERE
FIGHTING
BEFORE.

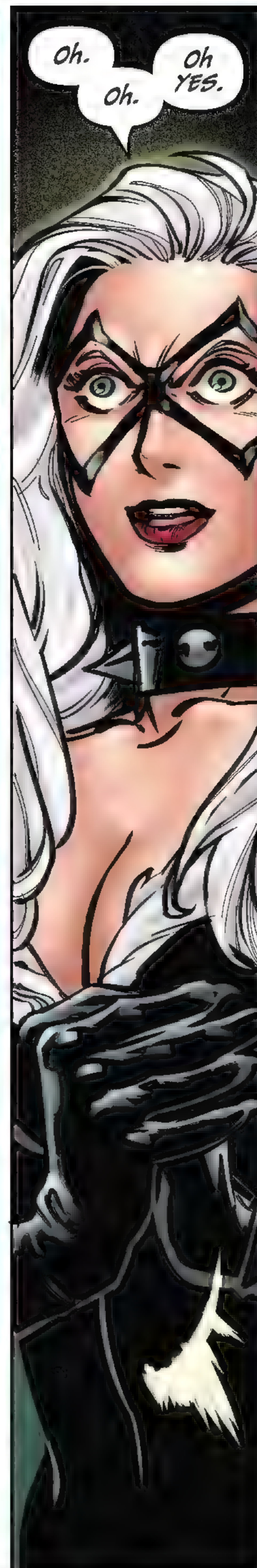
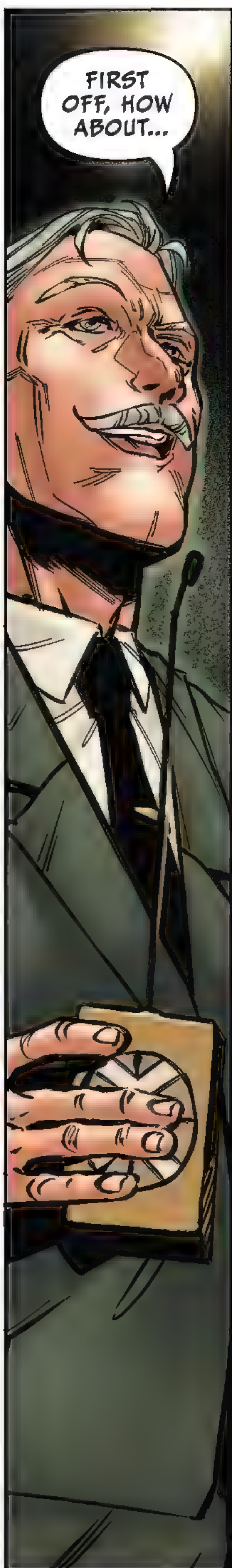
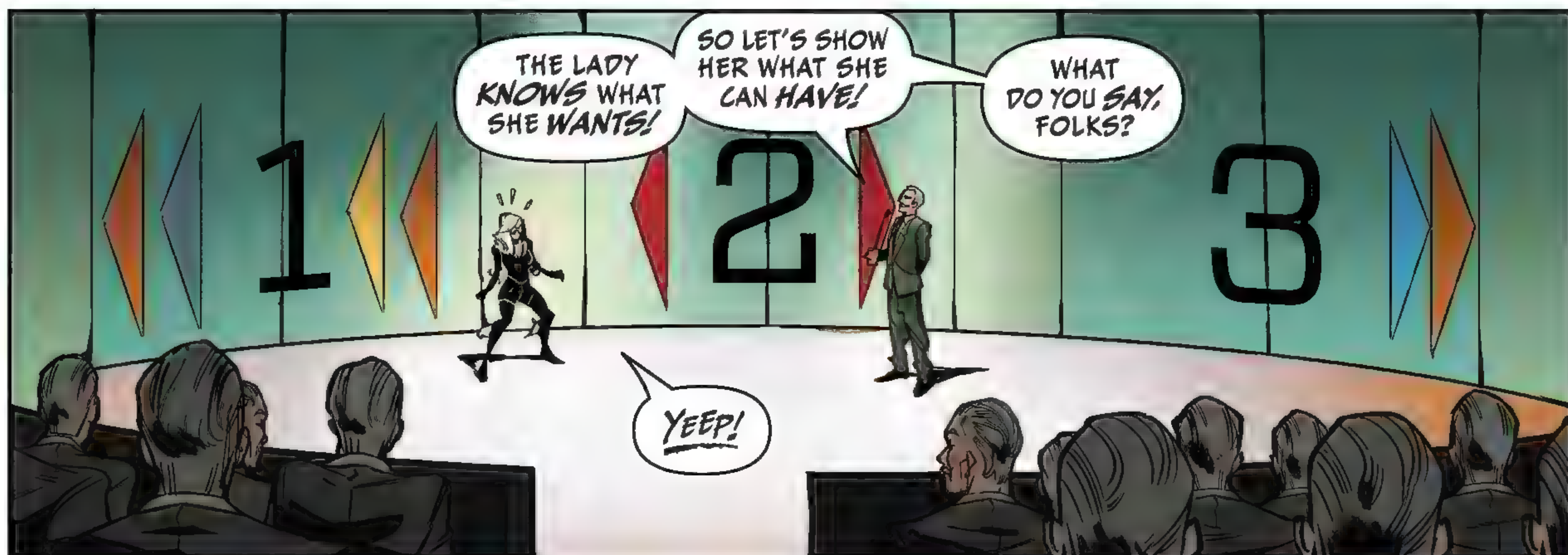
"THE ONLY
ONE WHO CAN
STOP HER..."

"...IS
HERSELF.

"AND I PRAY TO ALL THE
GODS I'VE EVER KNOWN
THAT SHE IS STRONG
ENOUGH TO RESIST
THE TEMPTATION OF
ULTIMATE POWER."

BUT EVEN
WITH YOUR
**NEWFOUND
POWER...**







BUT IS THAT
ENOUGH?

OF
COURSE
NOT!

WHAT
CAN YOU GIVE THE
GIRL WHO WANTS
EVERYTHING?

WHY...

...EVERYTHING,
OF COURSE.

THE WEALTH
OF NATIONS. BAUBLES
OF COSMIC IMPORT. THE
MIGHTIEST HEROES AND
VILLAINS, KNEELING
AT YOUR FEET.

AND, OF
COURSE...

...YOUR
FATHER,
BROUGHT
BACK TO
YOU!

YOUR
MOTHER,
NO LONGER
A WIDOW.

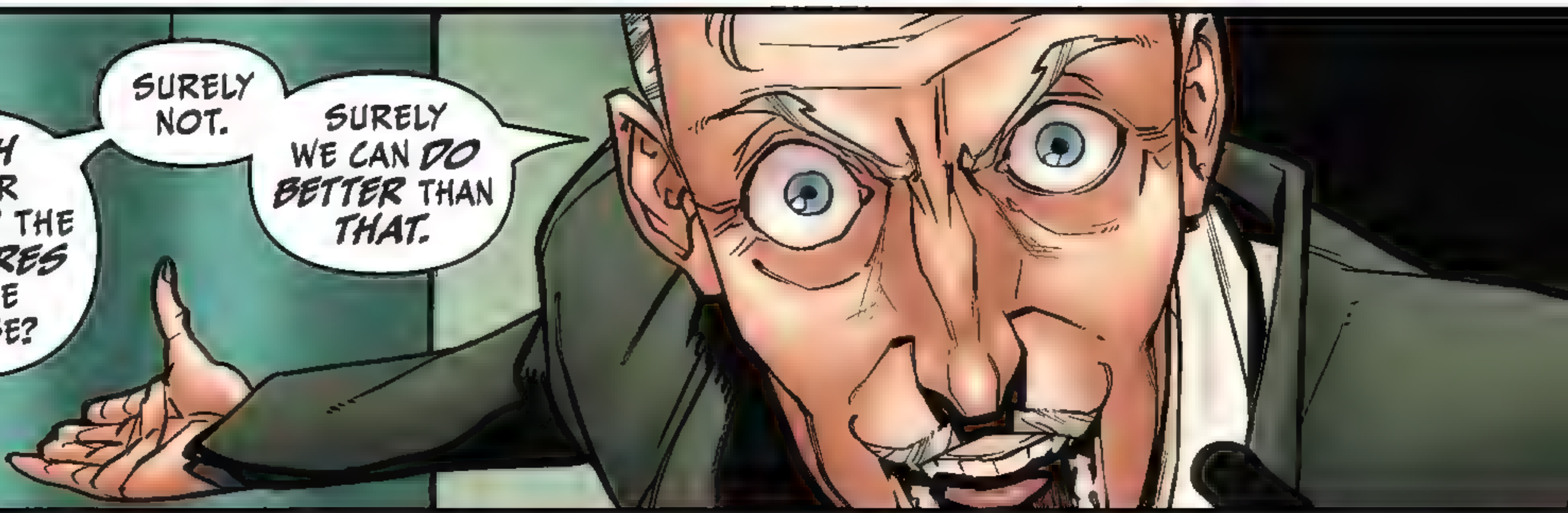
Oh.

IS THAT
ALL, FOLKS?
CAN WE SEND OUR
GIRL HOME WITH
JUST THAT?

DEATH
TO HER
ENEMIES? THE
TREASURES
OF THE
UNIVERSE?

SURELY
NOT.

SURELY
WE CAN **DO**
BETTER THAN
THAT.



LOVE.

EVERY HEART
YOU'VE BROKEN,
HEALED.

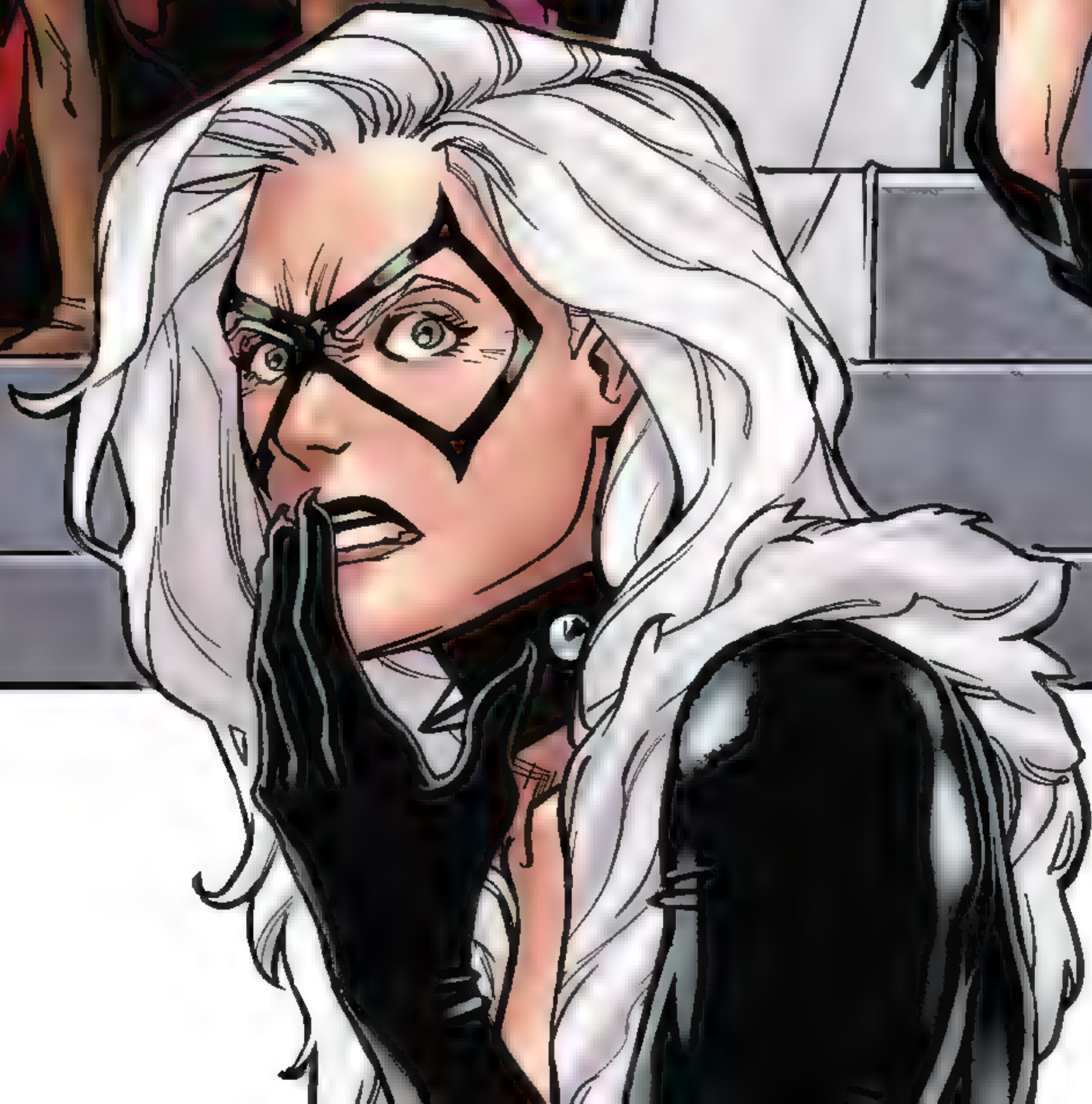
EVERY LOVER
WHO LEFT YOU,
RETURNED TO
YOUR SIDE.

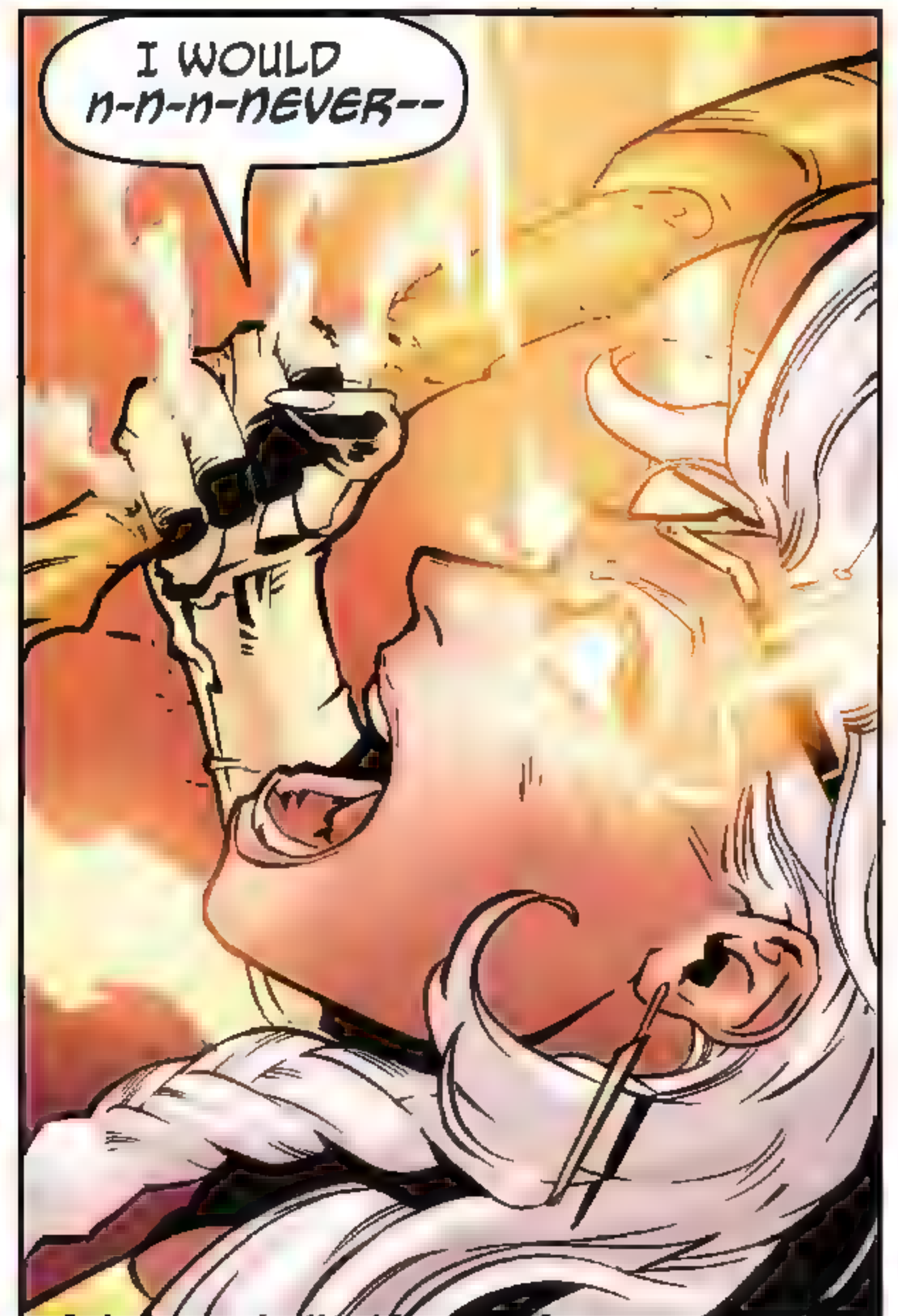


Oh.

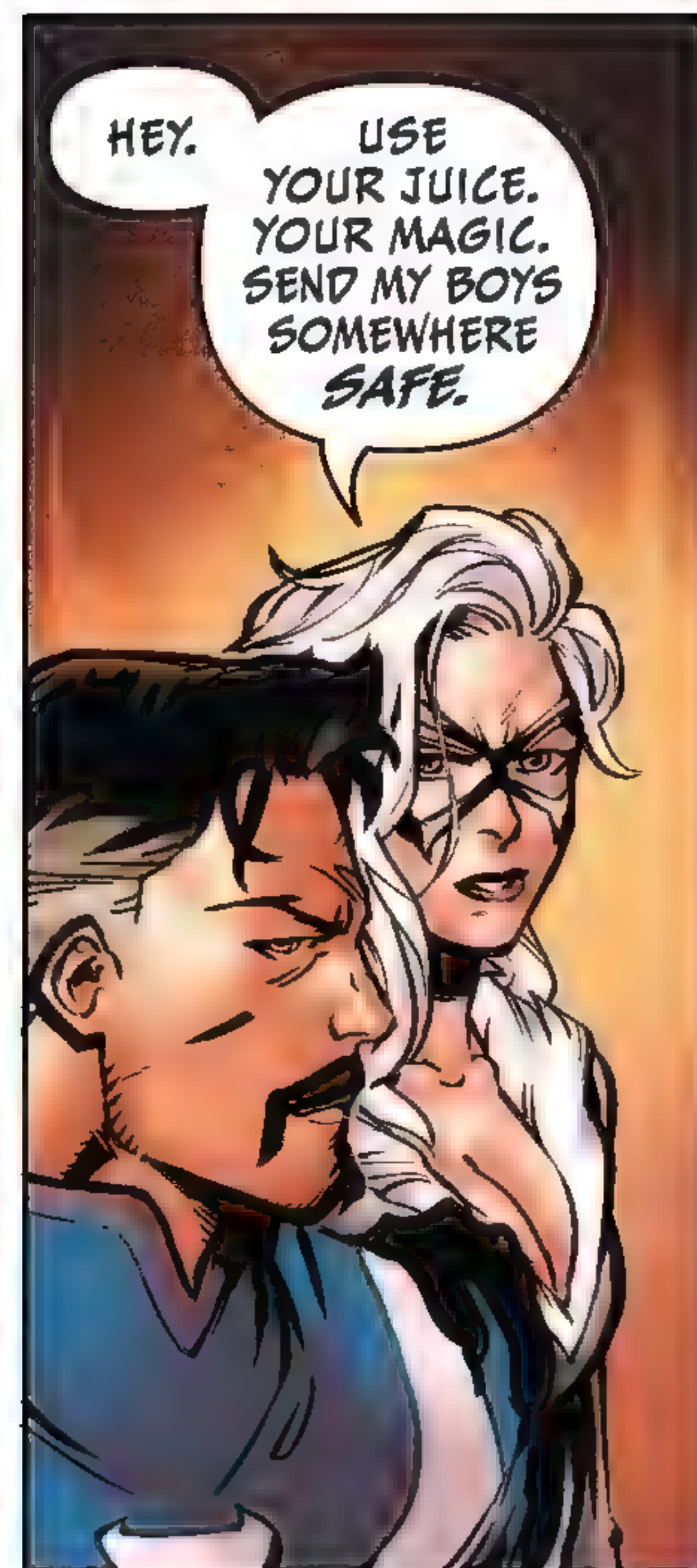
Oh NO.
NO.

HOW
DARE
YOU.











For as long as I can remember, I've wanted to be a super hero.

The Queen Cat.

But "as long as I can remember" only stretches back a year and a half, when I climbed out of a freezing river, my brain scrubbed of any memories of my life before, so that's... unique.

That's why I keep this journal. It helps me to stay rooted in who I am.

Roderick Kingsley, the Hobgoblin, gave me this name. This costume.

I was one of his "Hob-Heroes."

That was when he was on his hero kick.

It didn't last long. He went rat again pretty quickly after that.

But I didn't.

I'm the Queen Cat. I'm a hero.

A super hero.



It's all I know.
It's all I have.

I don't know
much about who
I was before.
I don't want to.

But I know
it wasn't good.



A new, clean life. A good
life. A heroic life...

It would all
be perfect...



Except for her.

Felicia Hardy.
The Black Cat.

The original.

And if she's
the original...





EXCUSE ME--

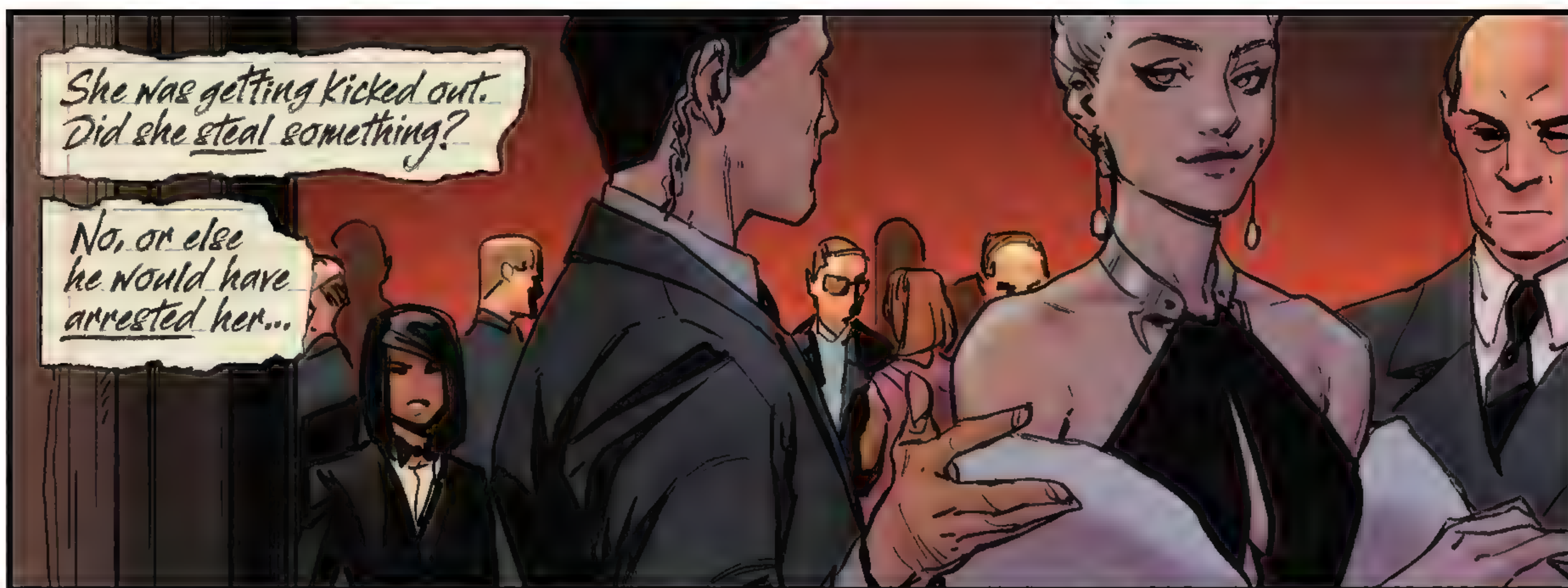
EXCUSE ME--



EXCUSE ME--

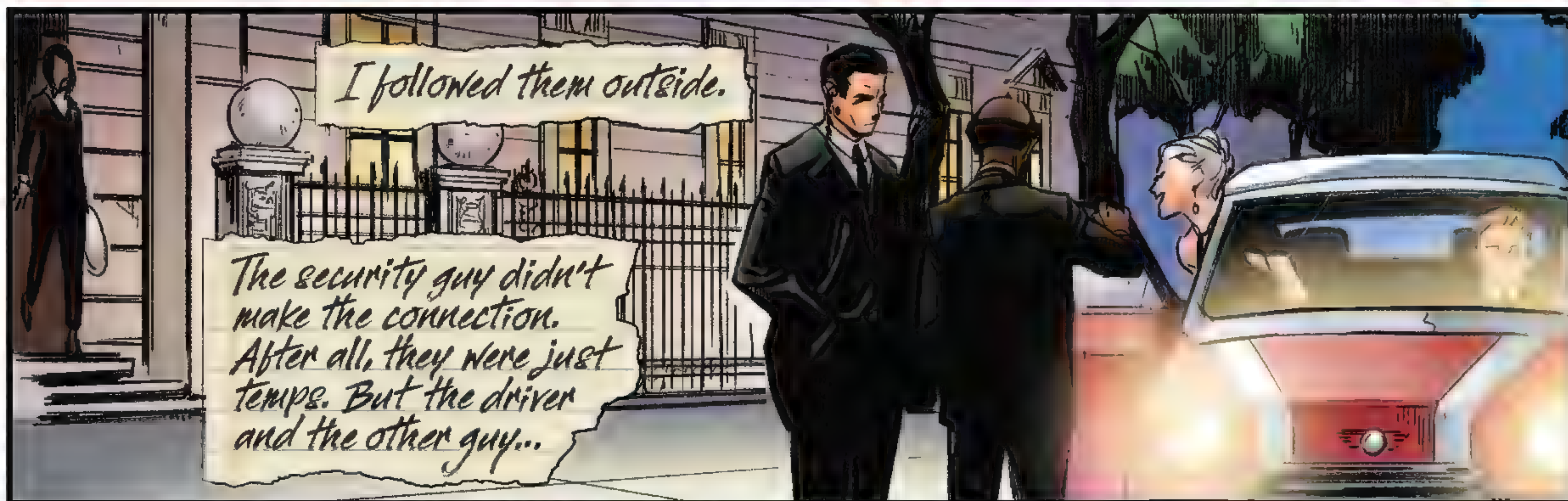
I couldn't figure out what was going on.

Was that security guy busting her?



She was getting kicked out. Did she steal something?

No, or else he would have arrested her...



I followed them outside.

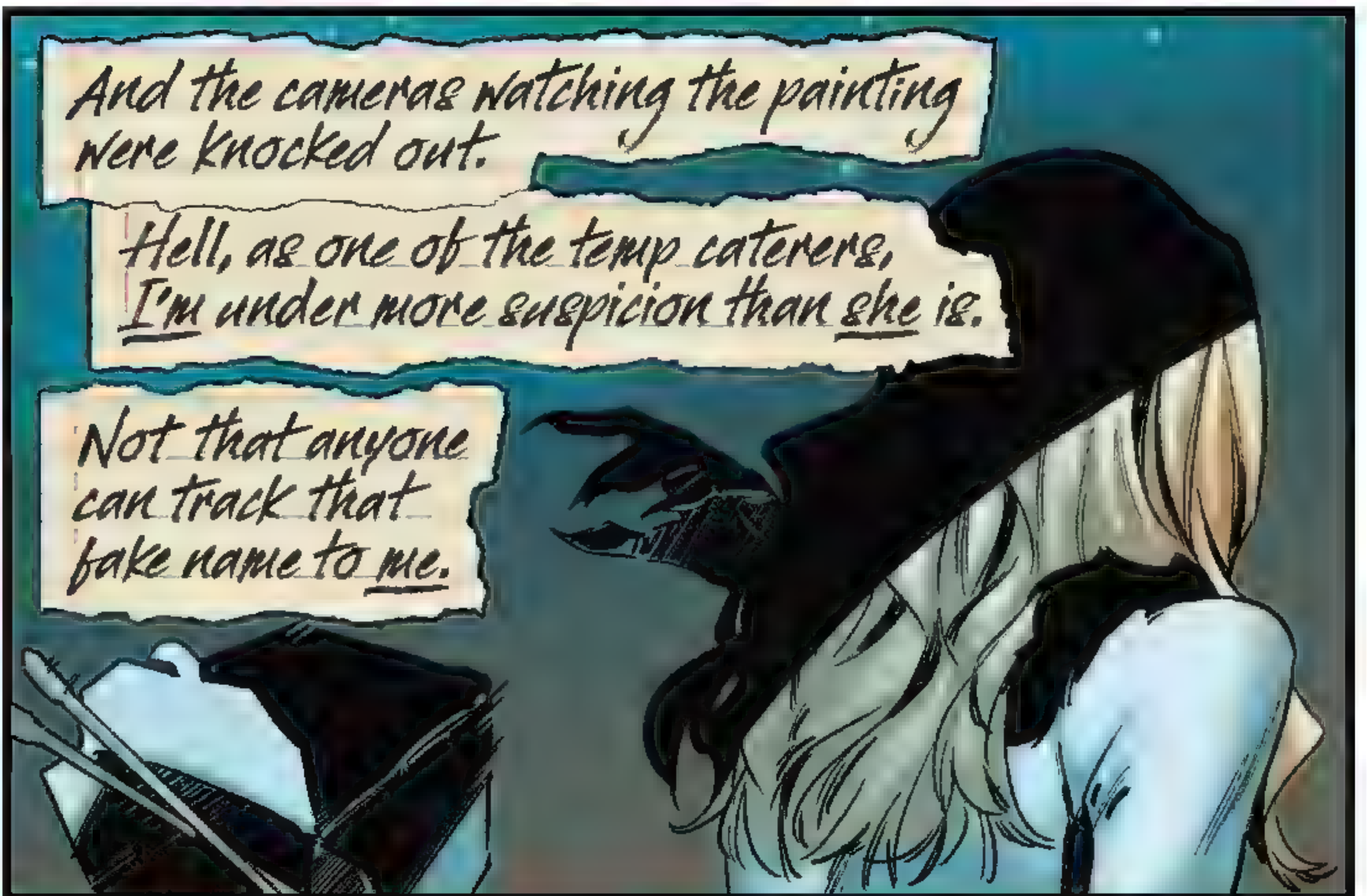
The security guy didn't make the connection. After all, they were just temps. But the driver and the other guy...



They were the caterers.

THIS WAS A JOB.

LATER.





WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST...GO
HOME?

ISN'T
YOUR DAD
RICH?



LILY HOLLISTER'S
DAD IS RICH. WAS
RICH. I DON'T
KNOW.

BUT
YOU'RE LILY
HOLLISTER.

I'M NO MORE LILY
HOLLISTER THAN YOU
ARE. HELL, YOU PROBABLY
KNOW MORE ABOUT
HER THAN I DO.

I'M THE
QUEEN CAT.
"LILY HOLLISTER"
IS JUST THE NAME
OF THIS BODY'S
PREVIOUS
TENANT.



I DON'T
REMEMBER ANYTHING
FROM BEFORE. IT MIGHT
AS WELL HAVE HAPPENED
TO SOMEONE ELSE.

IT DID
HAPPEN TO
SOMEONE
ELSE.

I DON'T
KNOW, Q.C.
THAT DOESN'T
SOUND...
HEALTHY.



IT'S NOT.
MY SENSE OF
IDENTITY IS... IT'S
FRAGILE.

THAT'S WHY
I NEED TO GET
THE BLACK CAT.
I PUT HER AWAY, AND
EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
THEN THE NAME IS ALL
MINE. THEN I'M
SECURE.

I JUST NEED
TO CATCH HER
RED-HANDED.



I NEED
PROOF.

4 YANCY ST. LATER.

There's always people around 4 Yancy St.

Rubbernecking, trying to get a glimpse of the Fantastic Four.

Especially after a lockdown event.

That's not why I was there.

I was there for her.

I was there because of this photo of the Black Cat and Johnny Storm just before the lockdown.

The caterers from the party.

The big lug on the gurney and the little jerk. Her goons. Did she rip off the F4?

The old guy, I didn't recognize.

And that was the security guy...

Was he part of her crew too? Was that his cut?

A lot of questions.

Nothing in the way of answers.

Yet.





BUT AS IT TURNS OUT, WITH SOME **JUDICIOUS GAMBLING** IN A **TERRIFYING CHINATOWN BASEMENT**, YOU CAN TAKE THAT KIND OF MONEY AND TURN IT INTO A **STAKE**.

THERE'S A **QUIET DIGNITY** IN **CATERING**, YOU KNOW? BEATS THE HELL OUT OF DEALING WITH **SPACE ALIENS** AND **SCARY CRIME LADIES**.



SO WHAT DO YOU WANT **HARDY** FOR? SHE DO YOU **DIRTY**?

IT'S SOMETHING I NEED TO **DO**.

I'VE BEEN THERE. YOU WANT MY **ADVICE**?

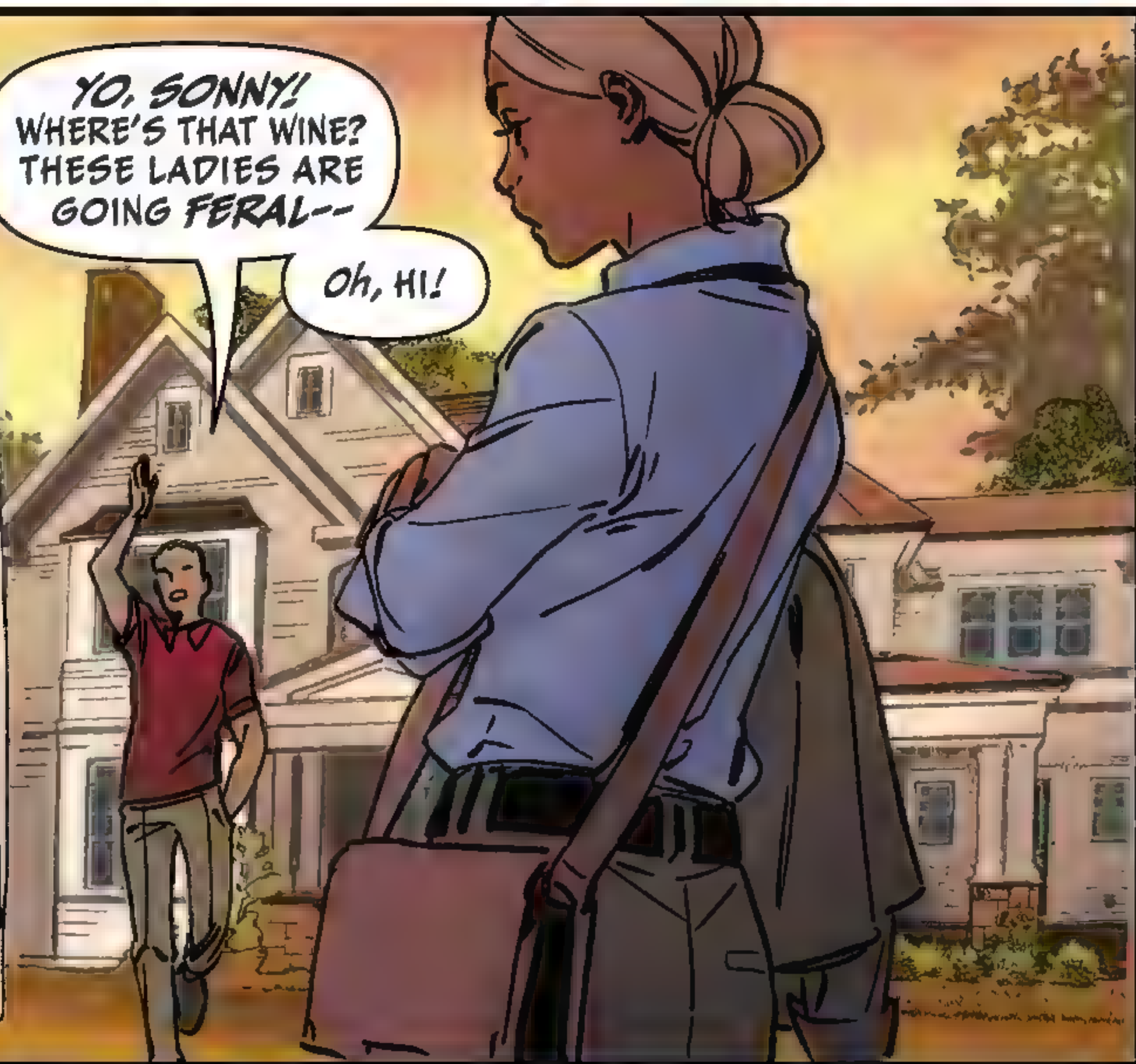


DROP IT. LET IT GO.

SHE'S TOO **GOOD** AT THIS. SHE'LL HAVE YOU **RUNNING AROUND** IN **CIRCLES** WHILE SHE EATS HER **FANCY KITSUNE TAKEOUT**.



YOU FIGURE THAT OUT AND YOU'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE? LOOK ME UP AND I'LL SET YOU UP WITH A **JOB**.



YO, SONNY! WHERE'S THAT **WINE**? THESE **LADIES** ARE GOING **FERAL**--

Oh, **HI!**



MAYBE YOU **FAILED**, **OCAMPO**...

...BUT I'M **MORE** THAN SOME **WASHED-UP EX-CON**, **EX-SECURITY GUY**. I'M A **HERO**.

SEE YOU **AROUND**.



WHO WAS THAT **BABE**?

SOMEONE AFTER **HARDY**.

HARDY? HA! **GOOD LUCK**.

COME ON, **KEVIN**. LET'S **FEED** THESE **LADIES**.

LATER

Ocampo was useless.

But then I remembered
the Black Cat's goons.

When I saw them on Yancy
Street, they were dressed
as food-delivery guys.

Ocampo had mentioned sushi from
Kitsune Food Co. The goons must
have been delivering something.

So with that one shaky lead,
I staked out a sushi restaurant.

(My stomach rumbling the whole time.)

I was getting desperate. The Black Cat had
gone to ground after the Yancy Street gig.

If she was working, I didn't
know anything about it.

There was rumbling that she and some scary
people were at odds. That she had left the
country after a fire down on the docks.

And then the Stark
thing happened.

Which left me up there,
on the rooftop.

Surveilling a sushi counter.

For three weeks.

Until I found him.



LATER

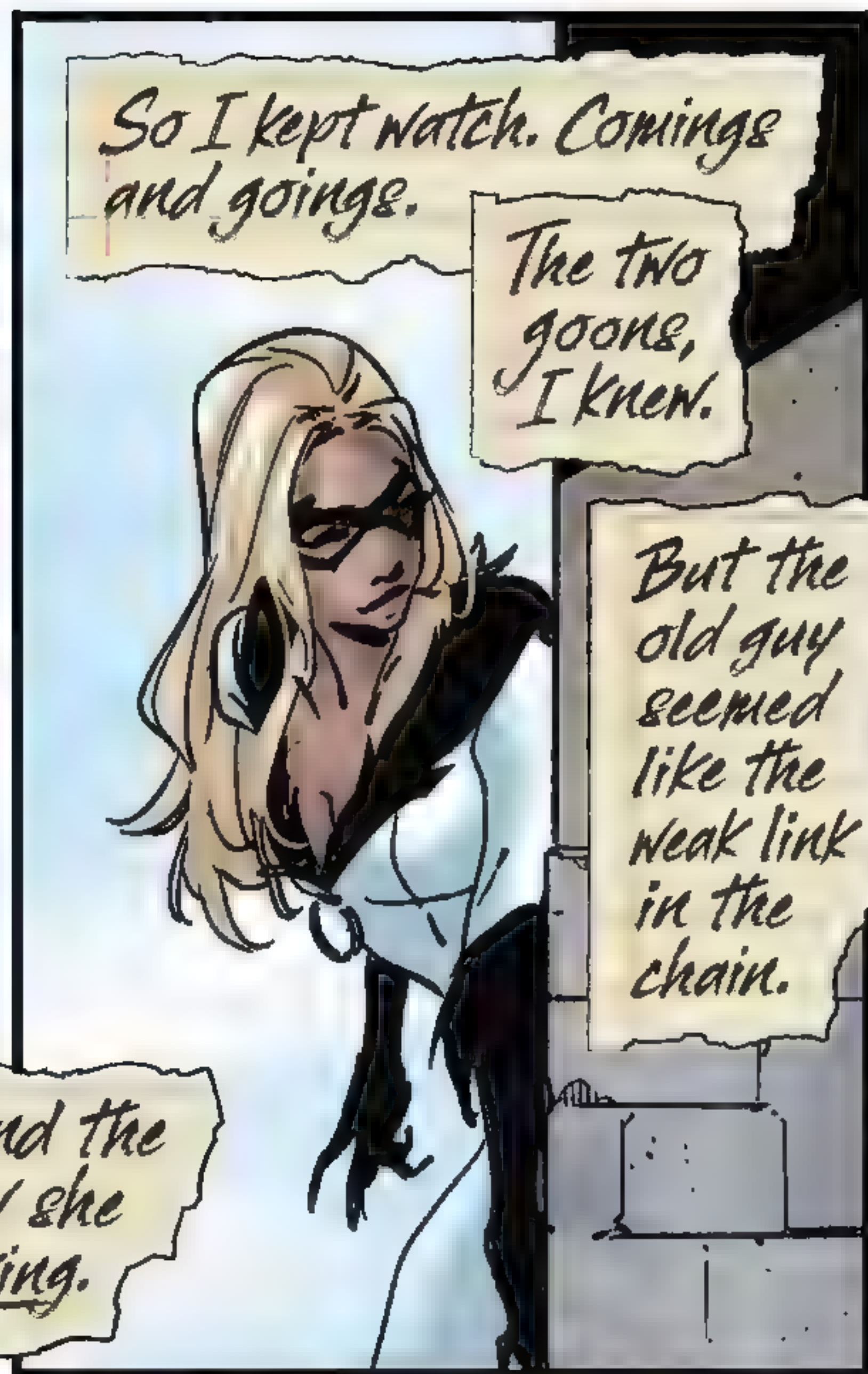
I followed him
to New Jersey.



They were working out
of a motel in Paramus.

I didn't see her,
but I could feel her.

Then the sky turned black and the
world fell apart. But I knew she
was still there. She was working.



So I kept watch. Comings
and goings.

The two
goons,
I knew.

But the
old guy
seemed
like the
weak link
in the
chain.



I was wrong.

He put up
one hell
of a fight.



I didn't
expect that.

But he was old.
And I wasn't going
to lose now.



Not when I
was so close to
what I wanted.

YOU
STUPID,
STUPID
GIRL!

I'LL SEE
YOU DEAD
FOR THIS!

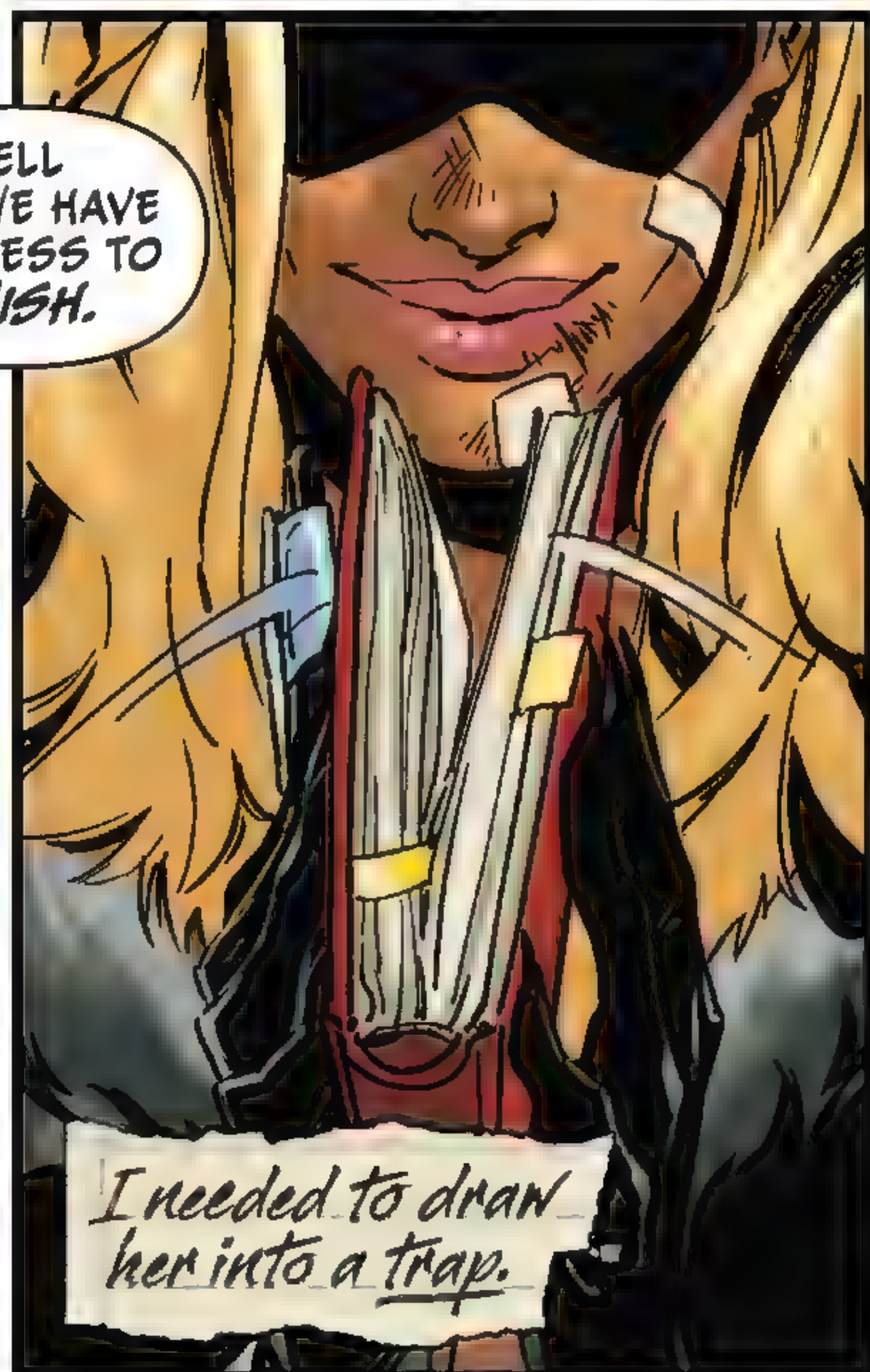


I needed to catch
her in the act.



TELL HER THE
QUEEN CAT
WILL BE IN
TOUCH.

TELL
HER WE HAVE
BUSINESS TO
FINISH.



I needed to draw
her into a trap.





Now I just have to set the trap,
prepare, and let her come to me.

Then we'll have

CRACK!



BLAM!



FWAP!

YAAHHH!



HOW DID THEY
FIND ME?!

GOT CLIPPED
BY THAT
BEANBAG--



--ARM
ALMOST
NUMB...

KRAASH!



GOT TO GET
UP HIGH--

--GOT TO
GET AWAY--



WELL,
HEY THERE,
"QUEEN
CAT".

=Heff=

=Heff=



I HEAR WE HAVE
BUSINESS.



HOW.

EVERYTHING
I WENT
THROUGH TO
GET THOSE
THINGS...

...YOU THINK I
WOULDN'T *CHIP* THEM?
I COULD TRACK THEM
IF THEY WERE ON
THE *MOON*.

WE WERE
ON YOU AS
SOON AS YOU
STOPPED
MOVING.

THAT'S FINE.
I WANTED TO GET
YOU, AND YOU'RE
HERE.

=Kaff=

ALL
ACCORDING
TO PLAN.



SO
WHAT'S
THIS ALL
ABOUT?

ODESSA
COOKED YOU
UP AS...WHAT, A
REPLACEMENT
FOR ME?

ODESSA?
YOU THINK I'M
WORKING FOR
RUSSIANS?

RUSSIANS?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



LET'S
START
OVER.

WHAT THE
HELL IS YOUR
GAME, "QUEEN CAT"?
BECAUSE YOU'RE
BITING MY *STYLE* AND
MESSING WITH MY
SCHEMES.



I'M A
HERO.

YOU'RE A
VILLAIN.

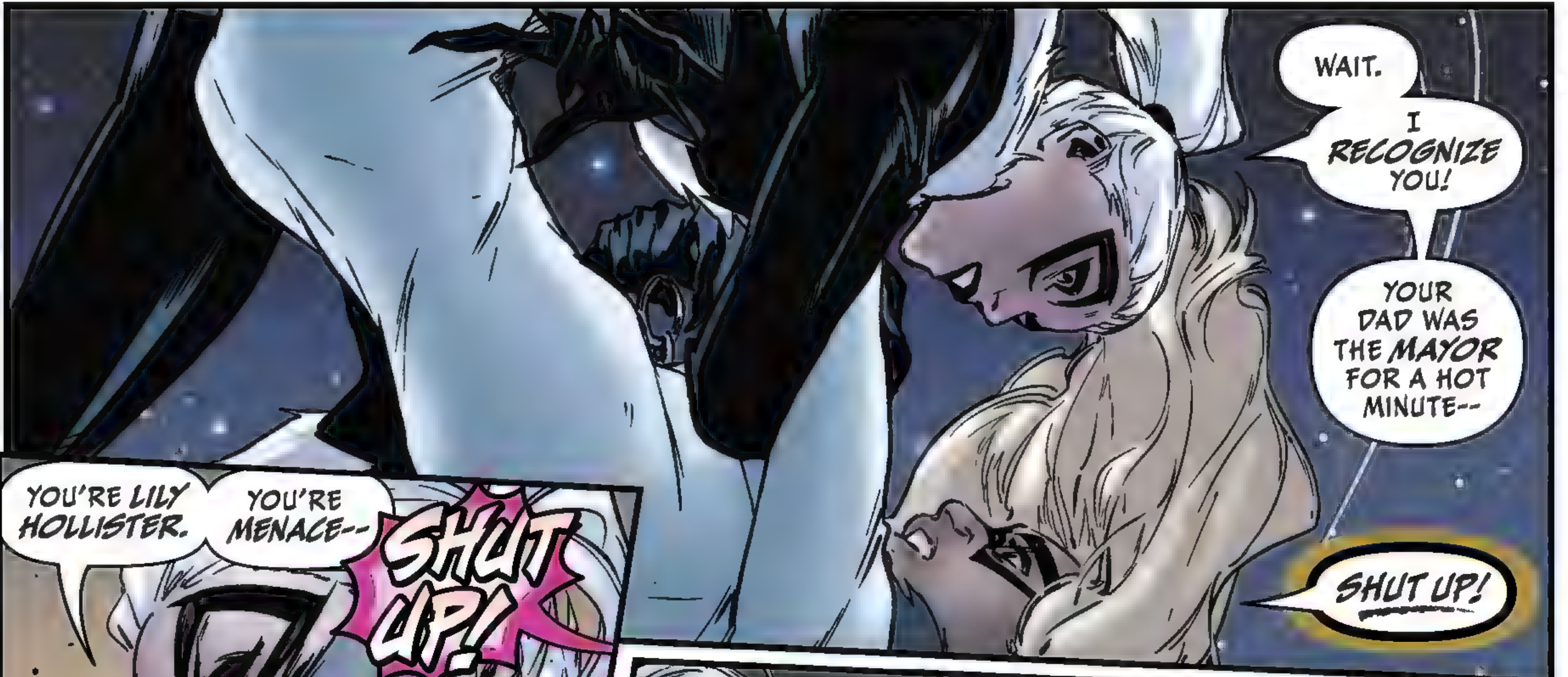
AM NOT.

AND I'M
GOING TO
PUT YOU IN
JAIL.



BETTER
THAN YOU HAVE
TRIED.

BUT THAT
LESSON'S
A PAINFUL
ONE.



WAIT.

I
RECOGNIZE
YOU!

YOUR
DAD WAS
THE *MAYOR*
FOR A HOT
MINUTE--

SHUT UP!

YOU'RE LILY
HOLLISTER.

YOU'RE
MENACE--

**SHUT
UP!
FUD!**

=Whuff!=-

WELL,
WELL,
WELL.

THIS IS INTERESTING.
LITTLE RICH GIRL TURNS
FREAKY VILLAIN...
TURNS HERO?

WAIT,
DIDN'T YOU
DIE?



GOOD FOR
YOU. RADICAL
RE-INVENTION--
I'M INTO IT.

SO WHY
ARE YOU
BUGGING
ME?

LILY
HOLLISTER
WAS IN POLICE
CUSTODY FOR
HER CRIMES.

THE *GOBLIN
KING* BLEW UP
THE CAR TRYING
TO RESCUE HER,
KNOCKED HER
INTO THE
RIVER.

SHE DIED
THERE. I'M WHO
CLIMBED OUT.

THOK!

--Utt!



IF I'M NOT LILY HOLLISTER, THEN QUEEN CAT IS ALL THAT I AM.

I NEED TO TAKE YOU DOWN BECAUSE QUEEN CAT'S A HERO. CAPTAIN AMERICA SAID SO.*

IF I'M NOT THE QUEEN CAT...I'M NOTHING.

*BACK IN AXIS: HOBGOBLIN #3. --NATTERING NICK



THAT'S A LOT OF ANGST, BABE.

GIVE IT UP. GO BACK TO BEING LILY HOLLISTER. THIS ISN'T FOR YOU.

NO!

WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THAT?



LILY HOLLISTER WAS POISON! CANCER!

SHE DESTROYED EVERYTHING SHE TOUCHED!

FUP!



EVEN IF I *COULD* REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT HER...

I'D DIE BEFORE I WENT BACK.



YOU KNOW WHAT?

MOST PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT YOU'RE **CRAZY.**

AMNESIAC SUPER HERO IN AN ONGOING IDENTITY CRISIS? YIKES.



BUT ME?

I LOVE IT.

NOT LONG AGO, I WAS IN A BAD WAY.

I DID A LOT OF BAD THINGS. HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE. KIND OF LIKE YOU--LIKE LILY HOLLISTER DID.

SO IF SOMEONE WANTS TO CHANGE WHO THEY ARE, I'M ALWAYS FOR IT.

SO GO ON, QUEEN CAT.

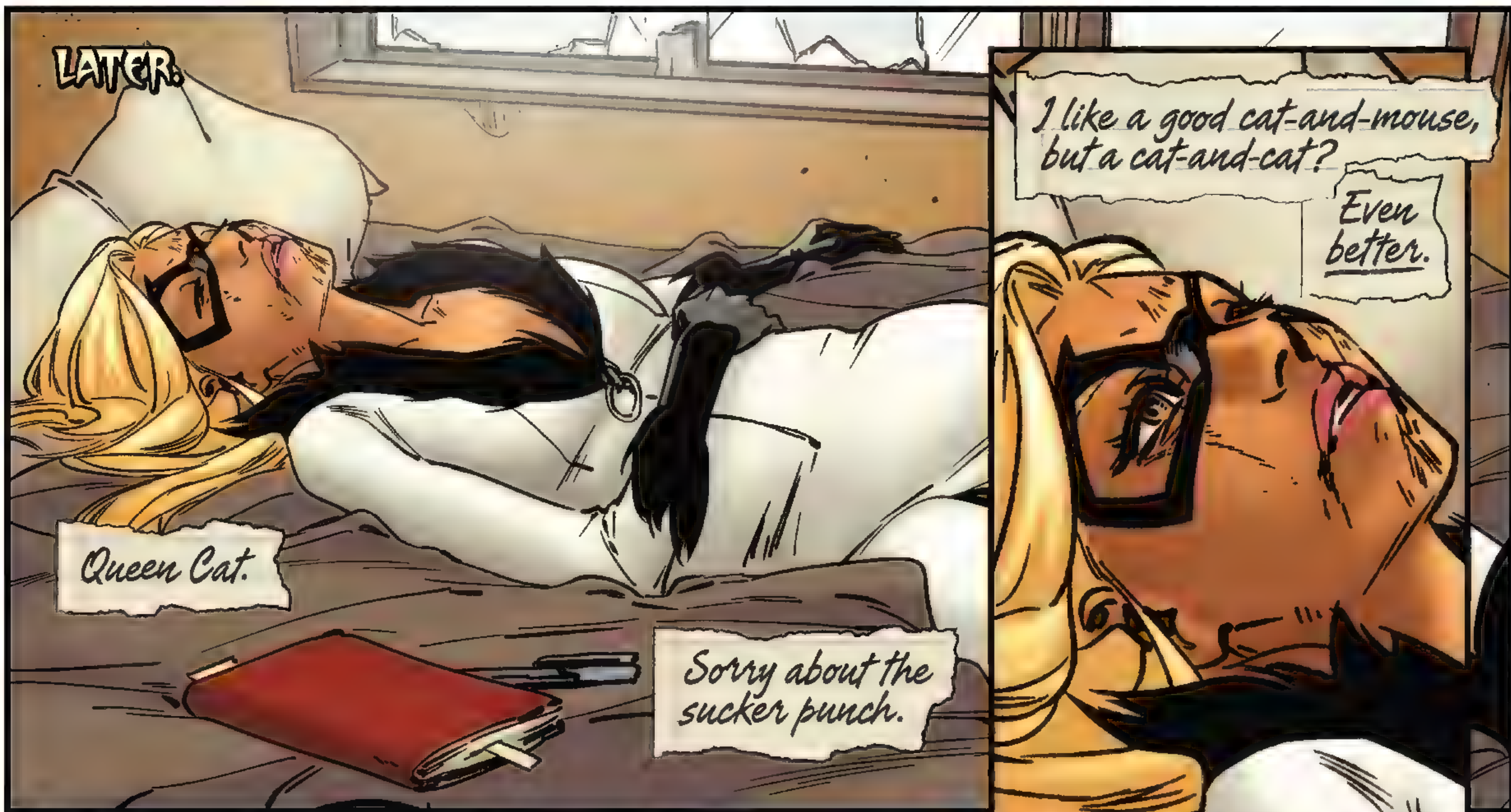
GO BE A SUPER HERO. YOU'VE GOT MY BLESSING, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.

BUT YOU STILL STOLE FROM ME...

...AND BEAT UP MY GUY...

...AND THERE'S A PRICE THAT COMES WITH THAT.

WRAM!



LATER

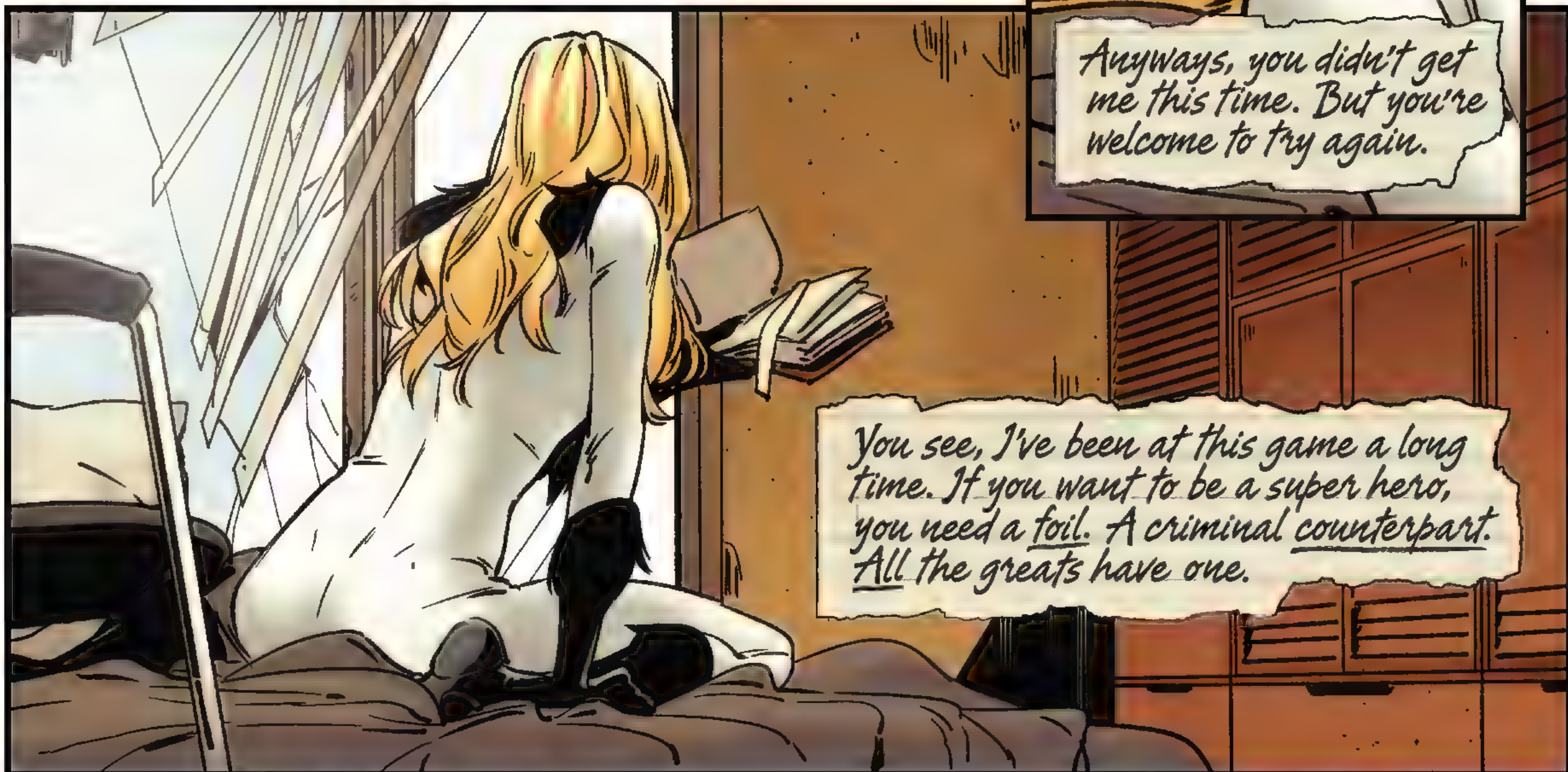
Queen Cat.

Sorry about the
sucker punch.

I like a good cat-and-mouse,
but a cat-and-cat?

Even
better.

Anyways, you didn't get
me this time. But you're
welcome to try again.



You see, I've been at this game a long
time. If you want to be a super hero,
you need a foil. A criminal counterpart.
All the greats have one.



Spider-Man and Venom.
Mr. Fantastic and Dr. Doom.
Wolverine and Sabretooth.

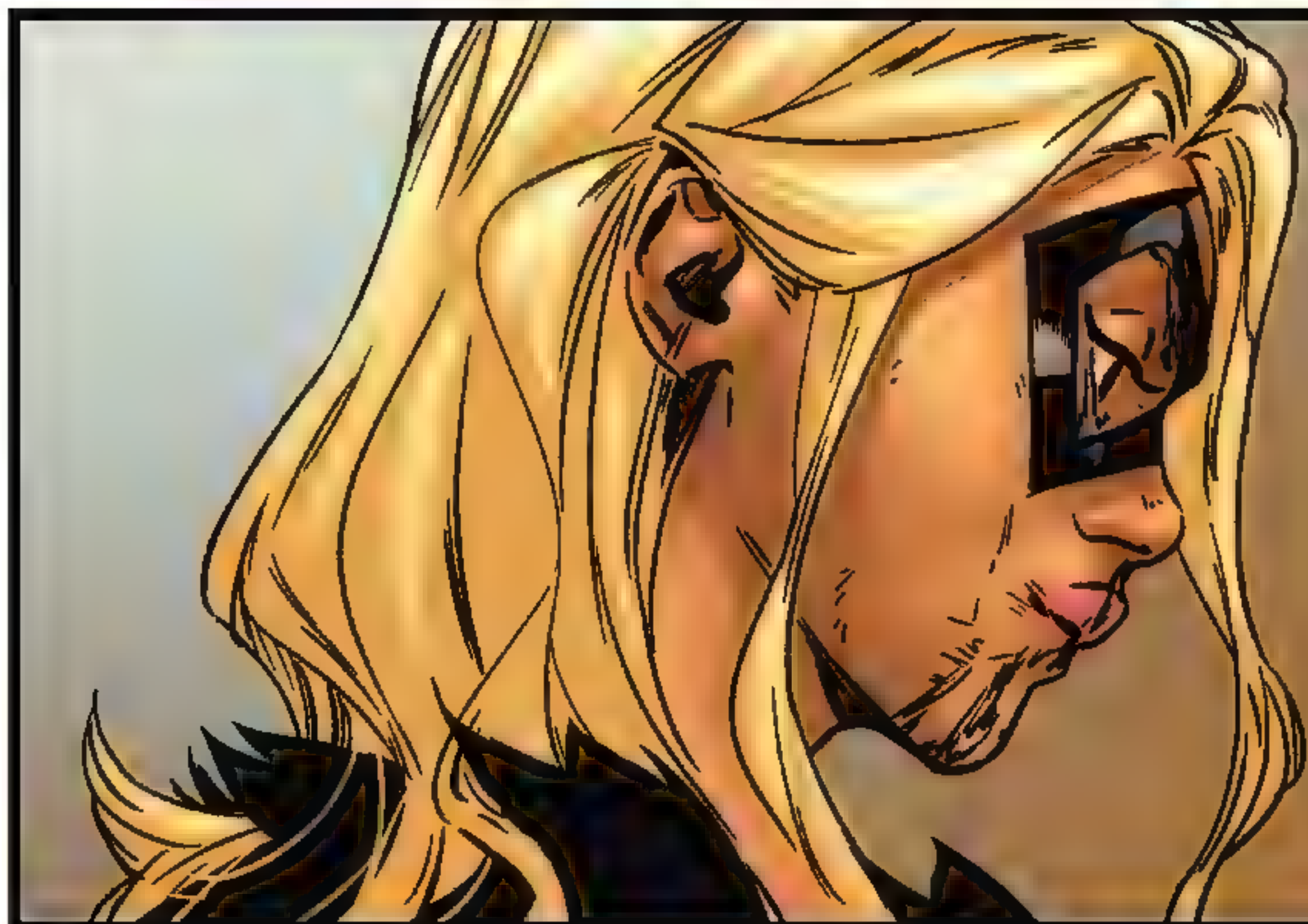
Tony Stark and bourbon.



And us? Queen Cat and the Black Cat. Two sides of the same coin. Light and dark.

So catch me if you can, because this game has begun.

See you on the rooftops.



SEE
YOU ON THE
ROOFTOPS,
BLACK CAT.

TO BE CONTINUED

We steal what we want,
but cannot have...

...and our desires
are infinite.

A special preview of things yet to come...by Nina Vakueva

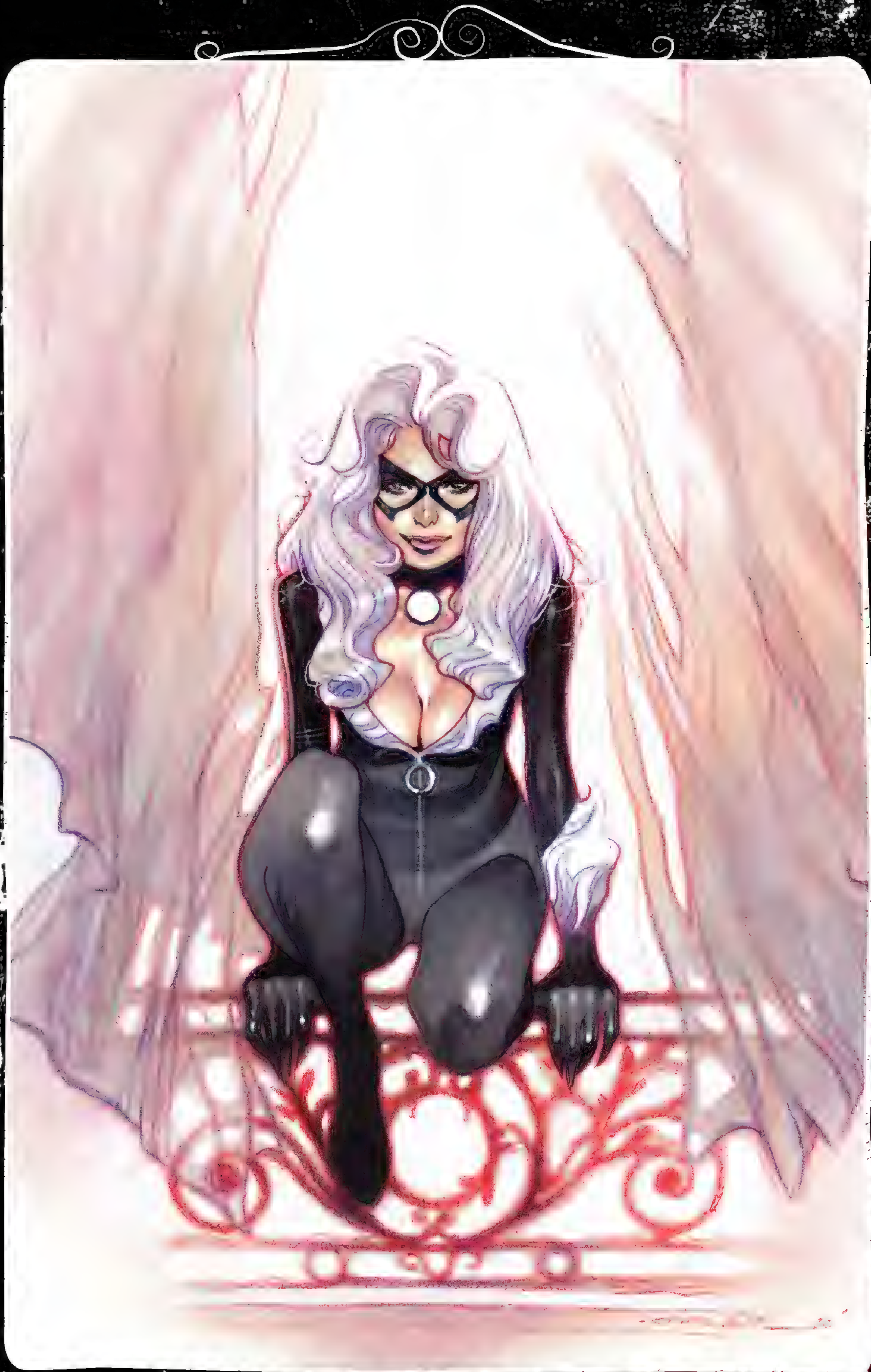




#1 Headshot variant by **TODD NAUCK & RACHELLE ROSENBERG**



#1 variant by **SKOTTIE YOUNG**



#2 variant by **OLIVIER COIPEL**



#2 variant by **ARIST DEYN**



#4 variant by **ADAM HUGHES**



#3 variant by **NABETSE ZITRO**



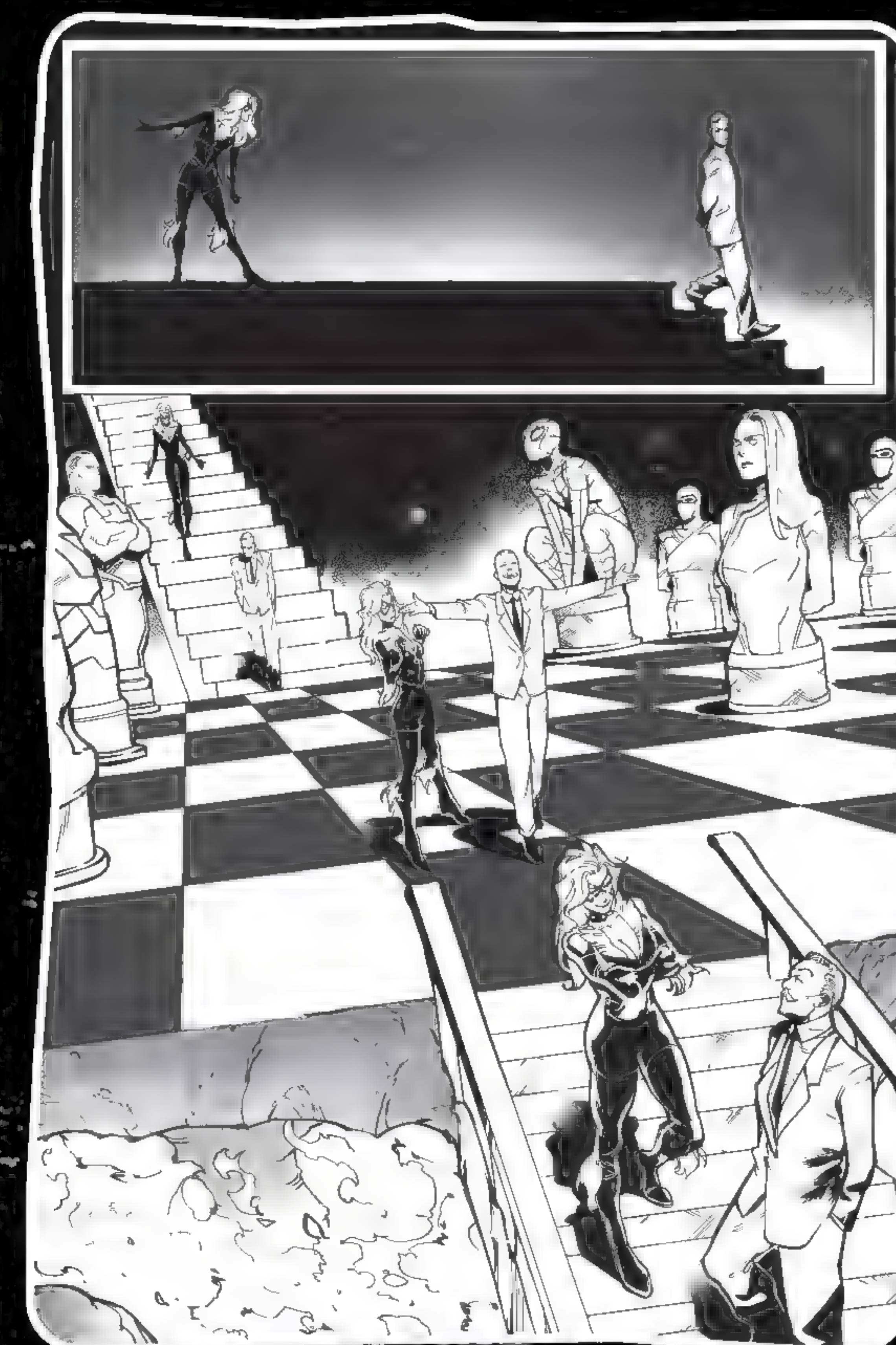
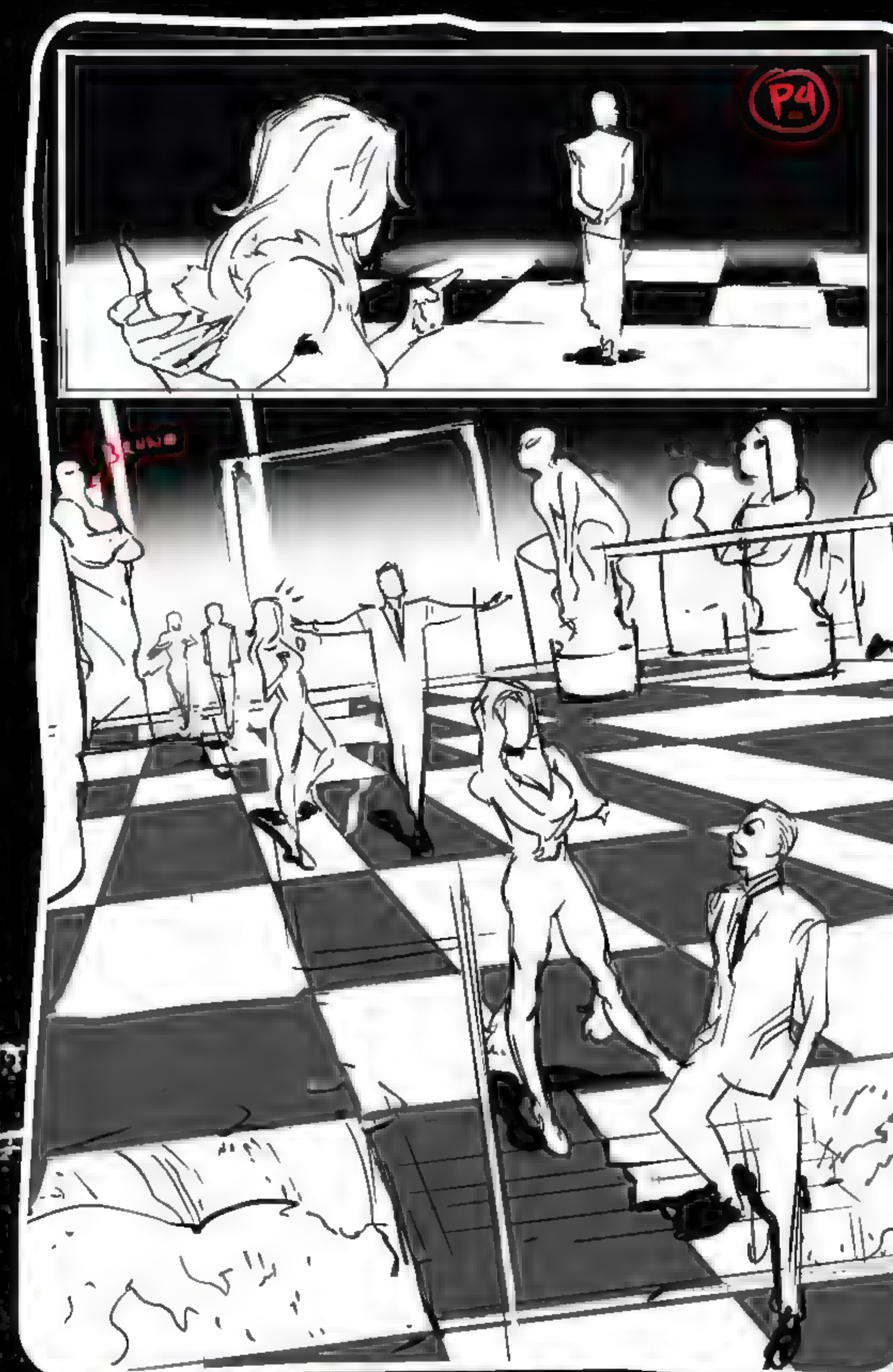
#4 variant by **NATACHA BUSTOS**



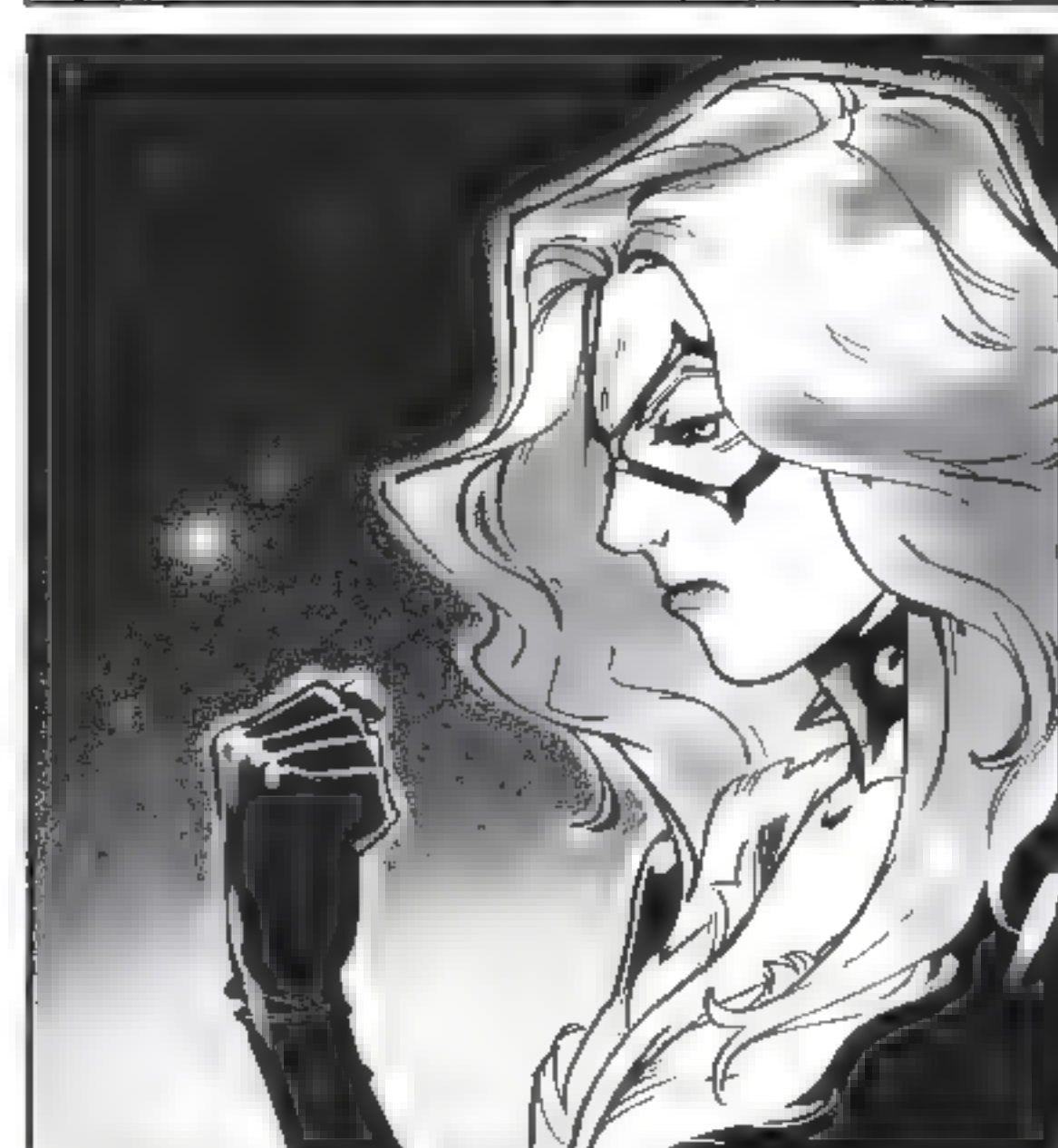
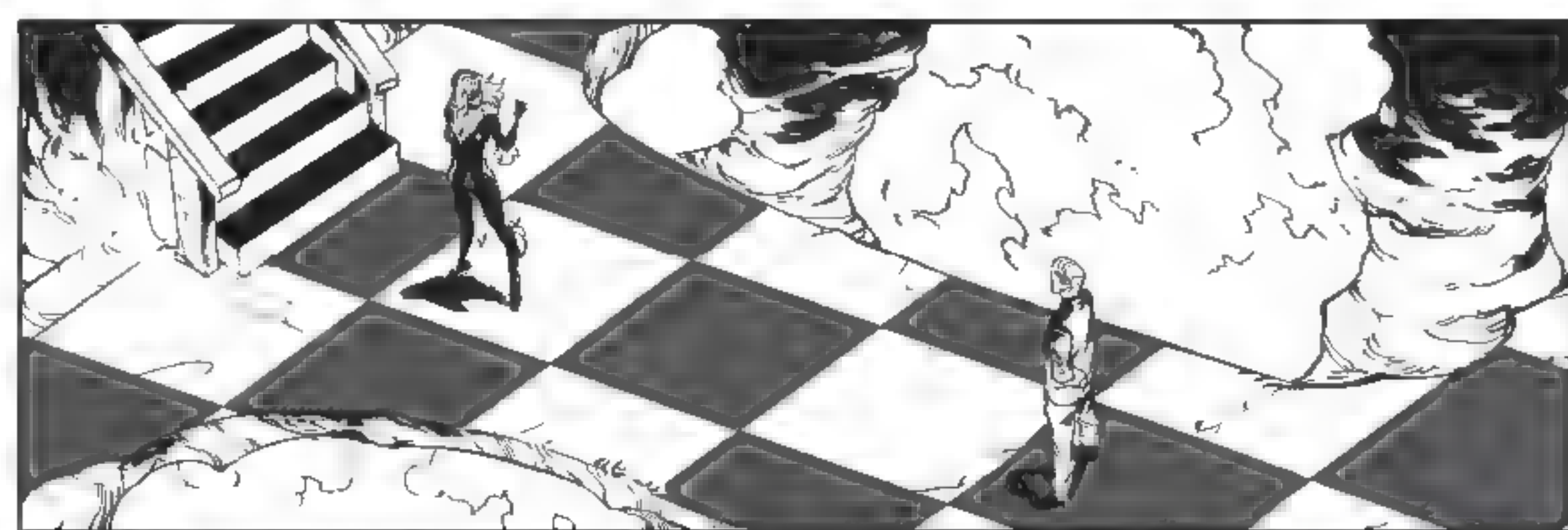
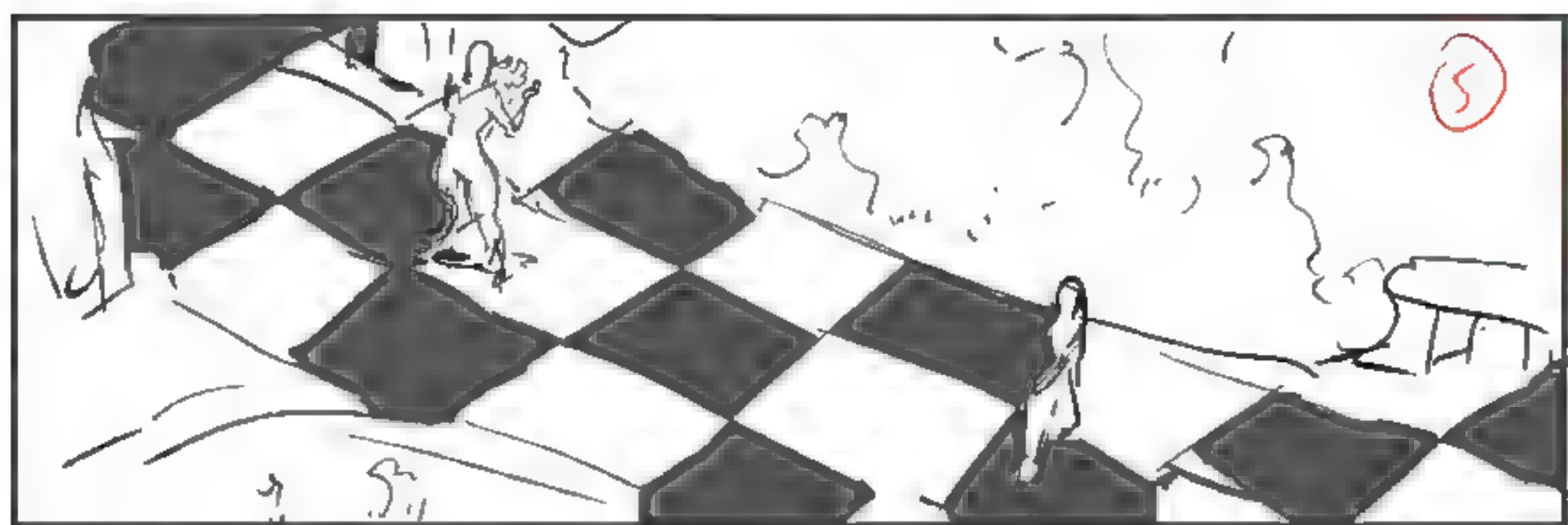
#4 variant by **ADAM HUGHES**



#4 Women's History Month variant by **JEN BARTEL**



#3, pages 3-4 process by **C.F. VILLA**







X-MEN: TO SERVE AND PROTECT #4

Dazzler, Misty Knight and Colleen Wing are pulled into the latest Contest of Champions, though it's unlike any held before, in *Black Cat* writer Jed MacKay's first Marvel story!

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET
ABDUCTED BY A COSMIC BEING
AND FORCED INTO A ROLLER DERBY
CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS
(I KNOW, RIGHT?).

DANG!!!

AT STAKE IS SOME
POORLY-DEFINED
COSMIC PRIZE OFFERED
BY THE GRANDMASTER,
WHO HAS APPARENTLY
BEEN REBORN YOUNGER
AND EVEN MORE
IRRITATING.

WHICH LEAVES JUST ME AND MY
SECURITY TEAM PLUCKED FRESH
FROM MY WORLD TOUR AGAINST,
LIKE, 100 Z-LIST SUPER VILLAINS,
NONE OF WHOM SHOULD BE LET
ANYWHERE NEAR SOME COSMIC-
PRIZE-POWER THING.

AM I
WORRIED?

HECK NO. I'M THE
BEST THERE IS AT
WHAT I DO.

AND WHAT I DO
IS ROLLER SKATE.

MISTY KNIGHT.
DAUGHTER OF THE
DRAGON.
DAZZLER WORLD
TOUR SECURITY.
WICKED AWESOME.

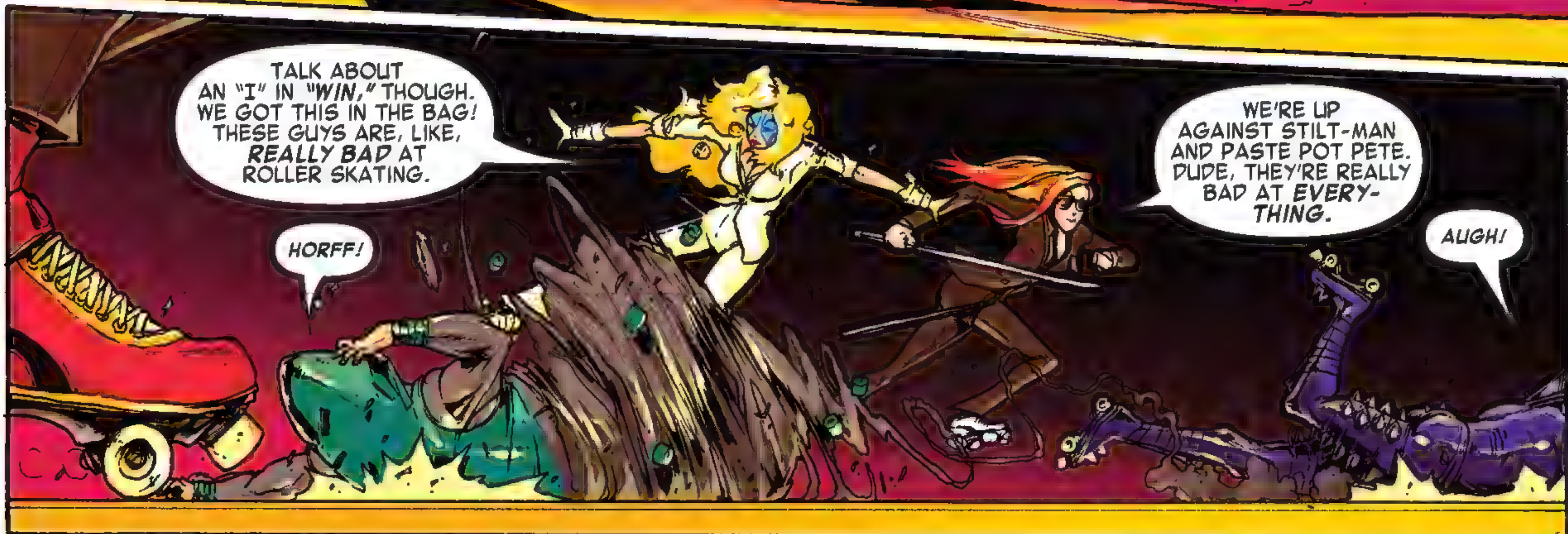
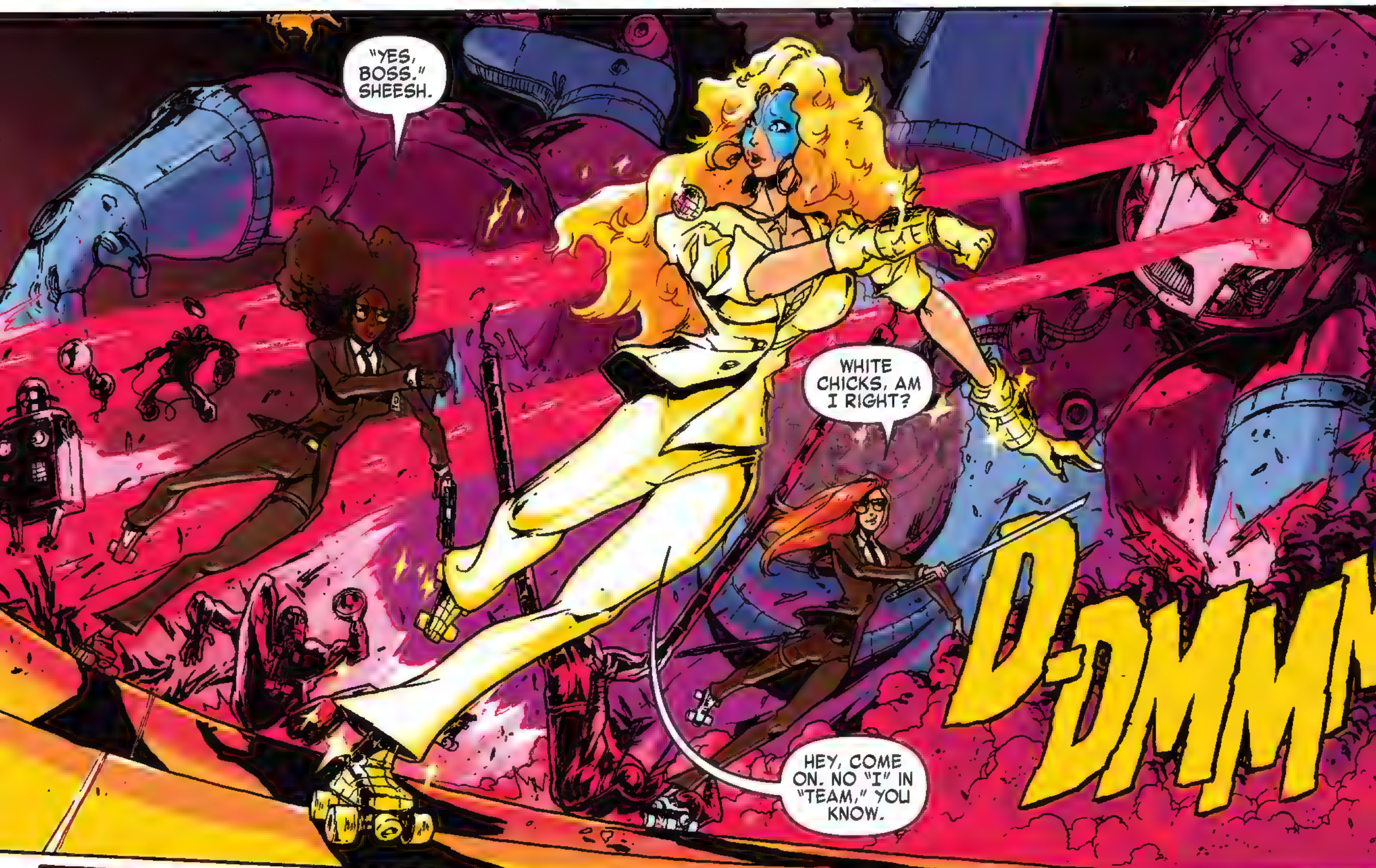
DAZZLER.
THE WORLD'S
GREATEST MUTANT
POP-STAR ROLLER
SKATER.

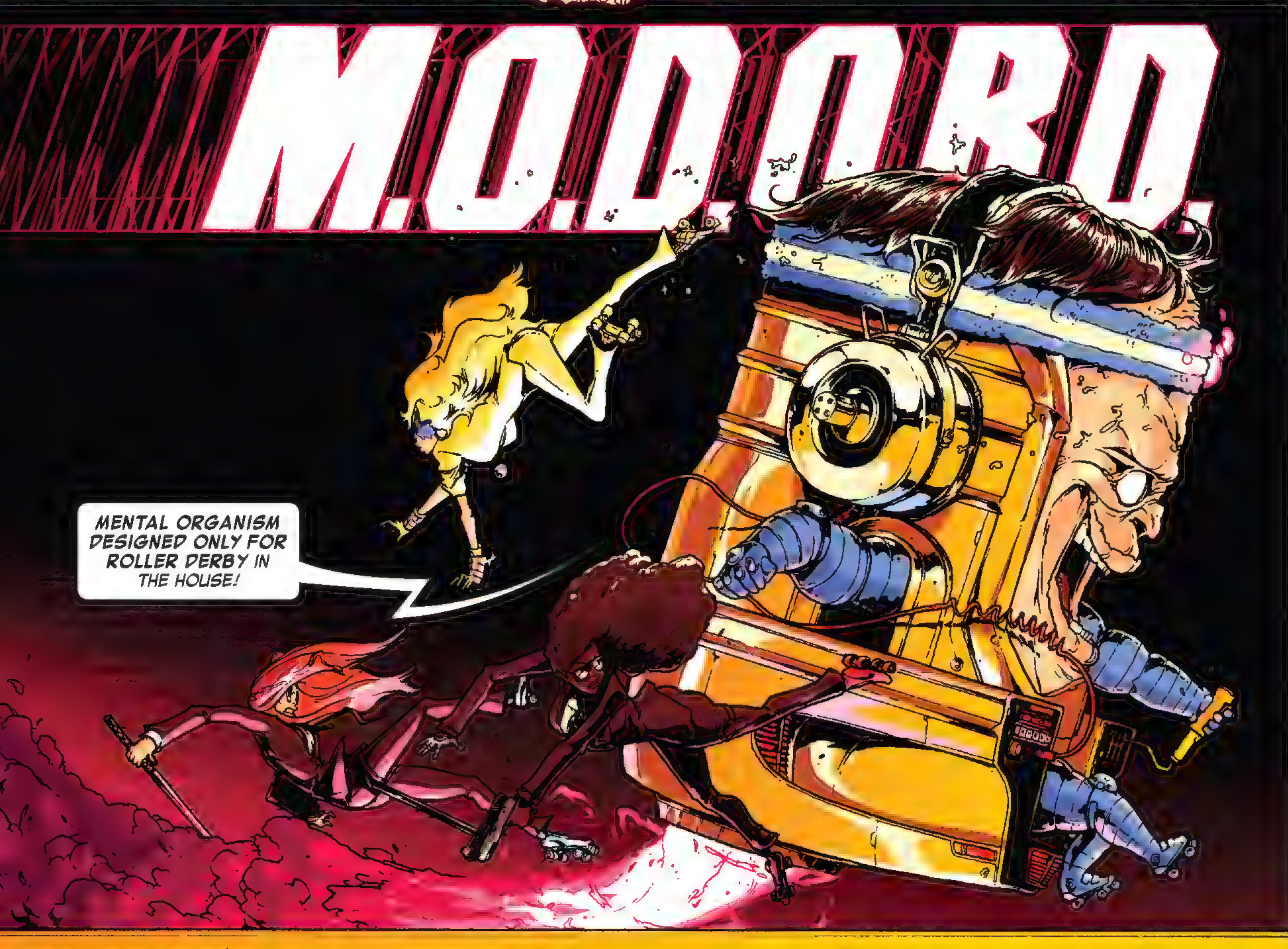
COLLEEN WING.
DAUGHTER OF THE
DRAGON.
DAZZLER WORLD
TOUR SECURITY. ALSO
WICKED AWESOME.

WHIP!

DISCO HIGHWAY

JED MACKAY WRITER
SHELDON VELLA ART
DAVE SHARPE LETTERER

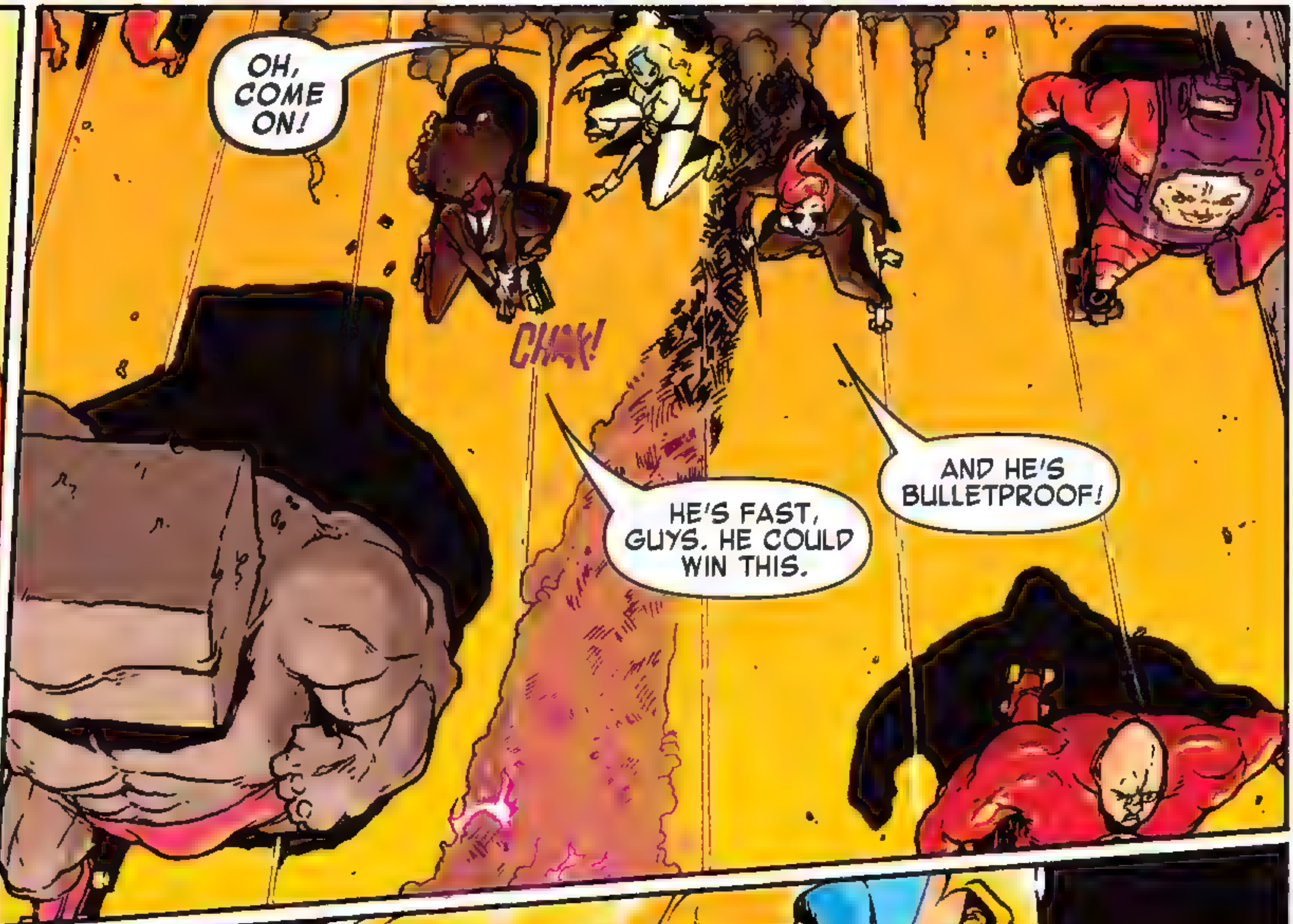






WHAT THE HELL?

HE'S SITTIN' ON A JET ENGINE?!



OH, COME ON!

CHAK!

HE'S FAST, GUYS. HE COULD WIN THIS.

AND HE'S BULLETPROOF!



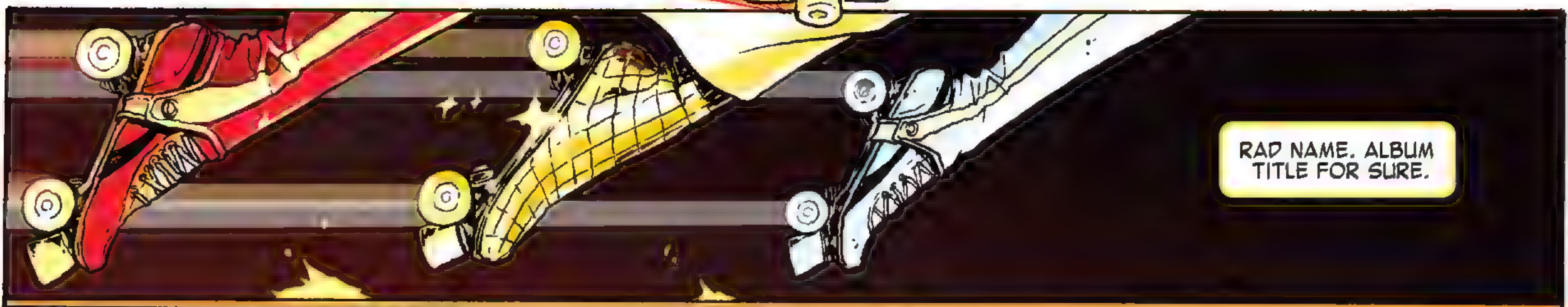
IT AIN'T OVER, GIRLS! BECAUSE HE IS YET TO MEET--



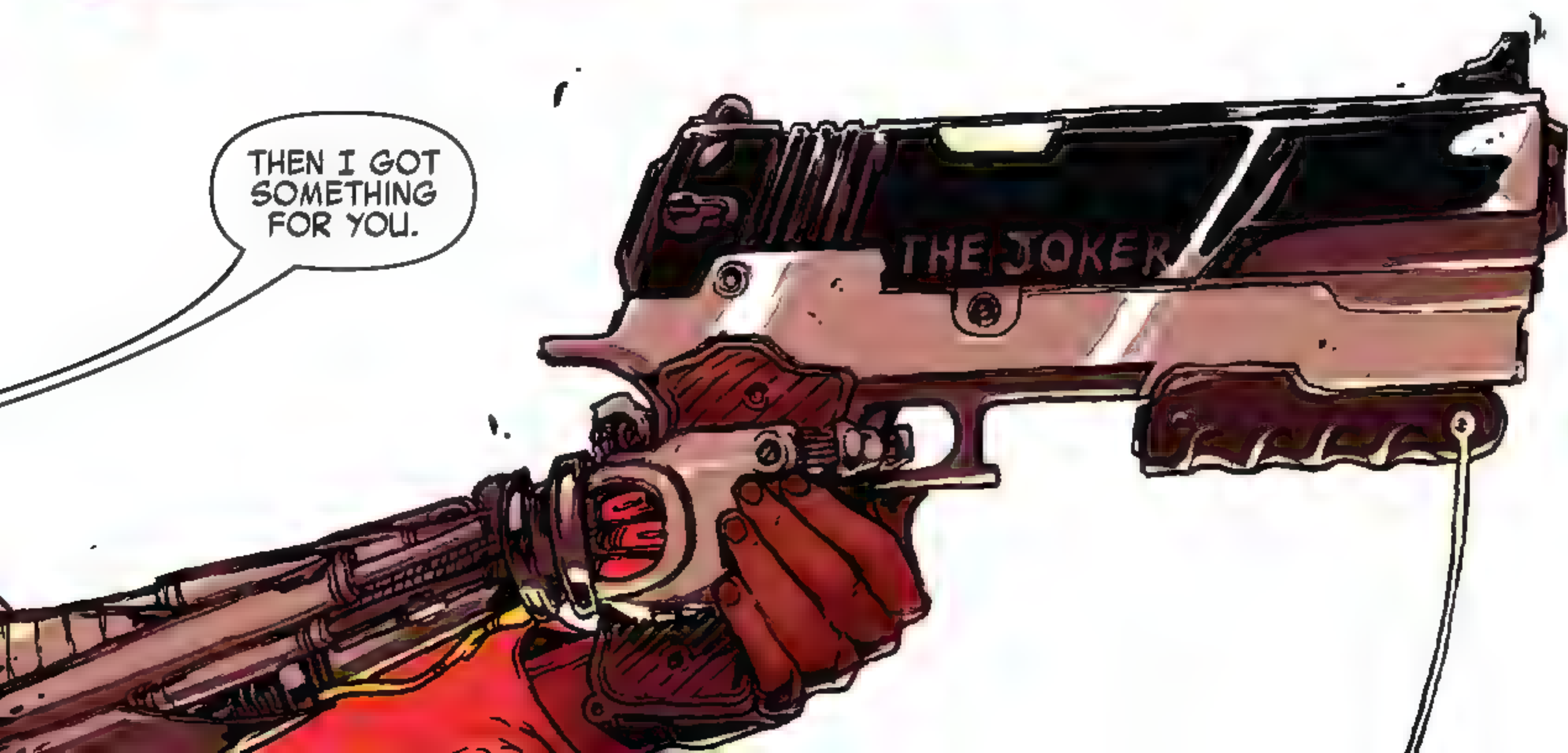
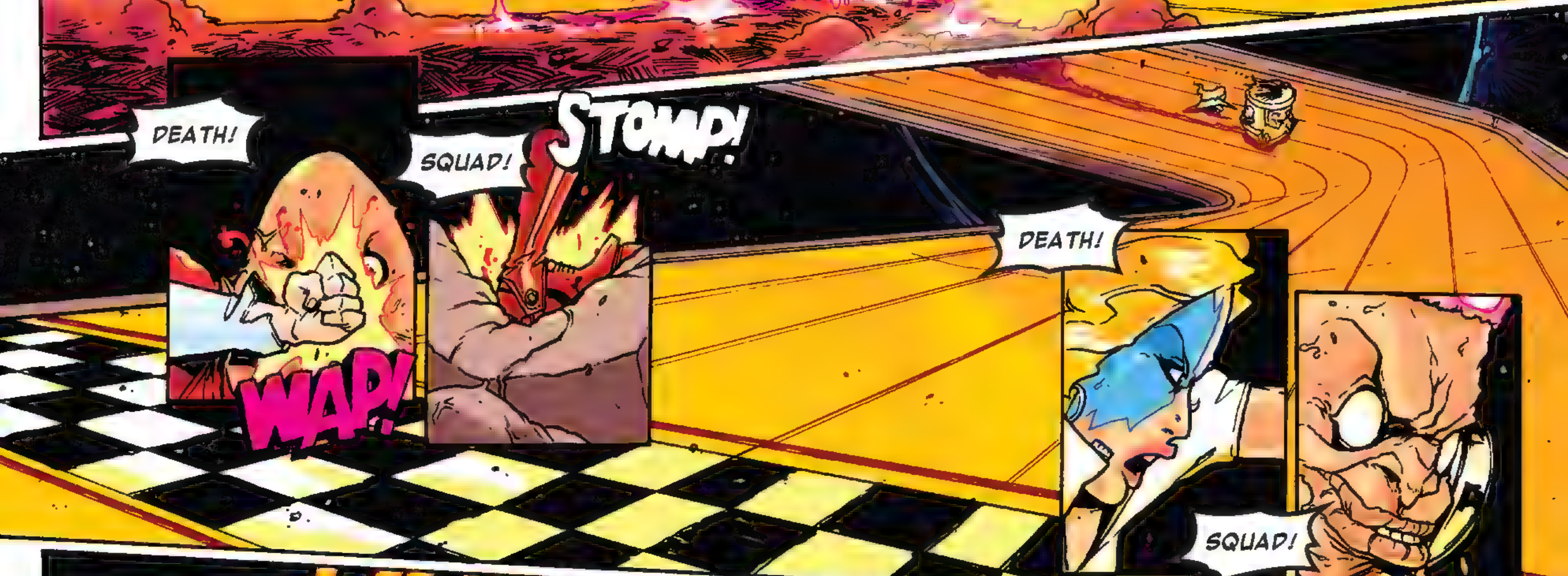
DAZZLER AND HER RADICAL ALL-GIRL ROLLER DEATH SQUAD!

DEATH!

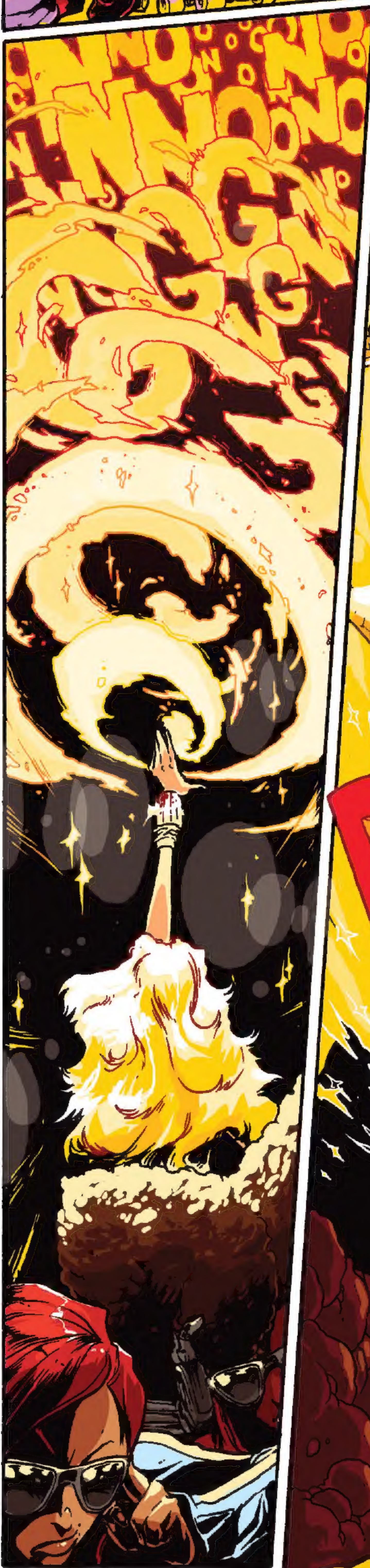
SQUAD!

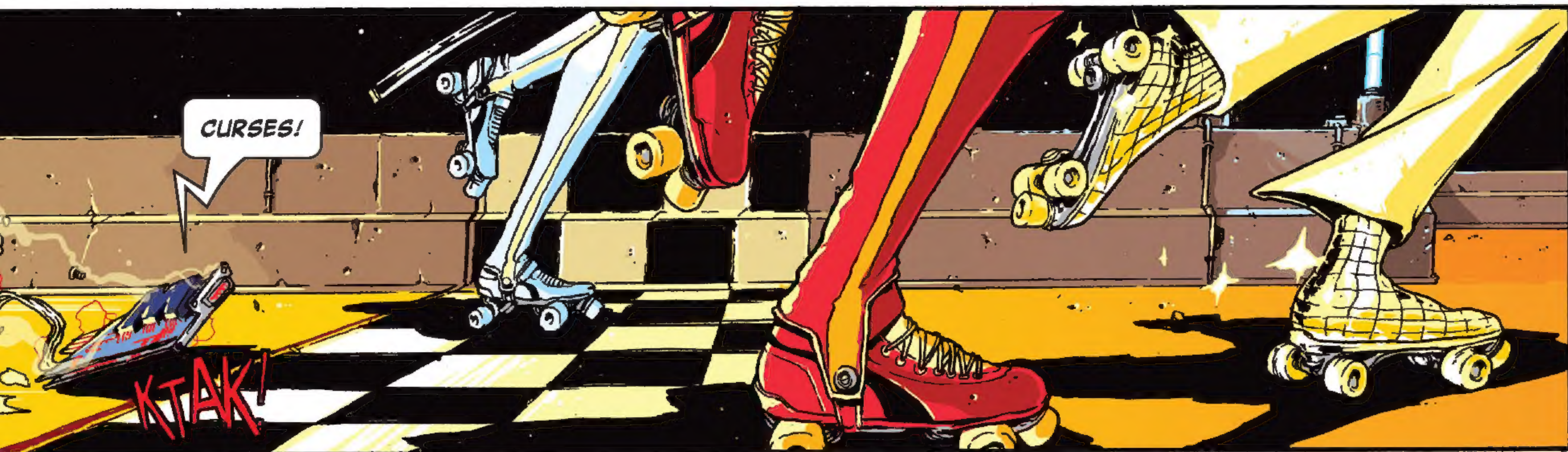


RAD NAME. ALBUM TITLE FOR SURE.



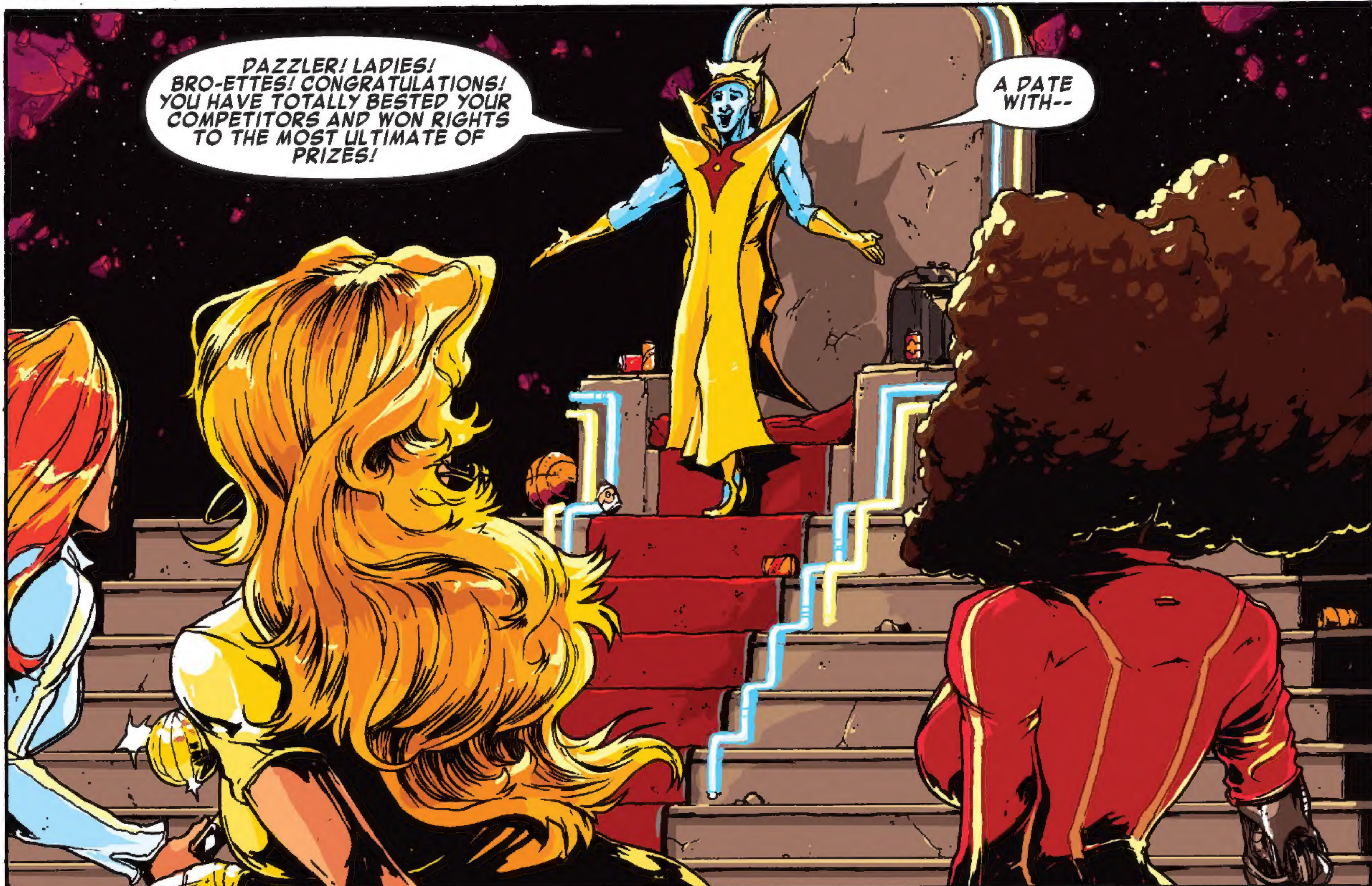
CH-CHAK!





DAZZLER! LADIES!
BRO-ETTES! CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU HAVE TOTALLY BESTED YOUR
COMPETITORS AND WON RIGHTS
TO THE MOST ULTIMATE OF
PRIZES!

A DATE
WITH--

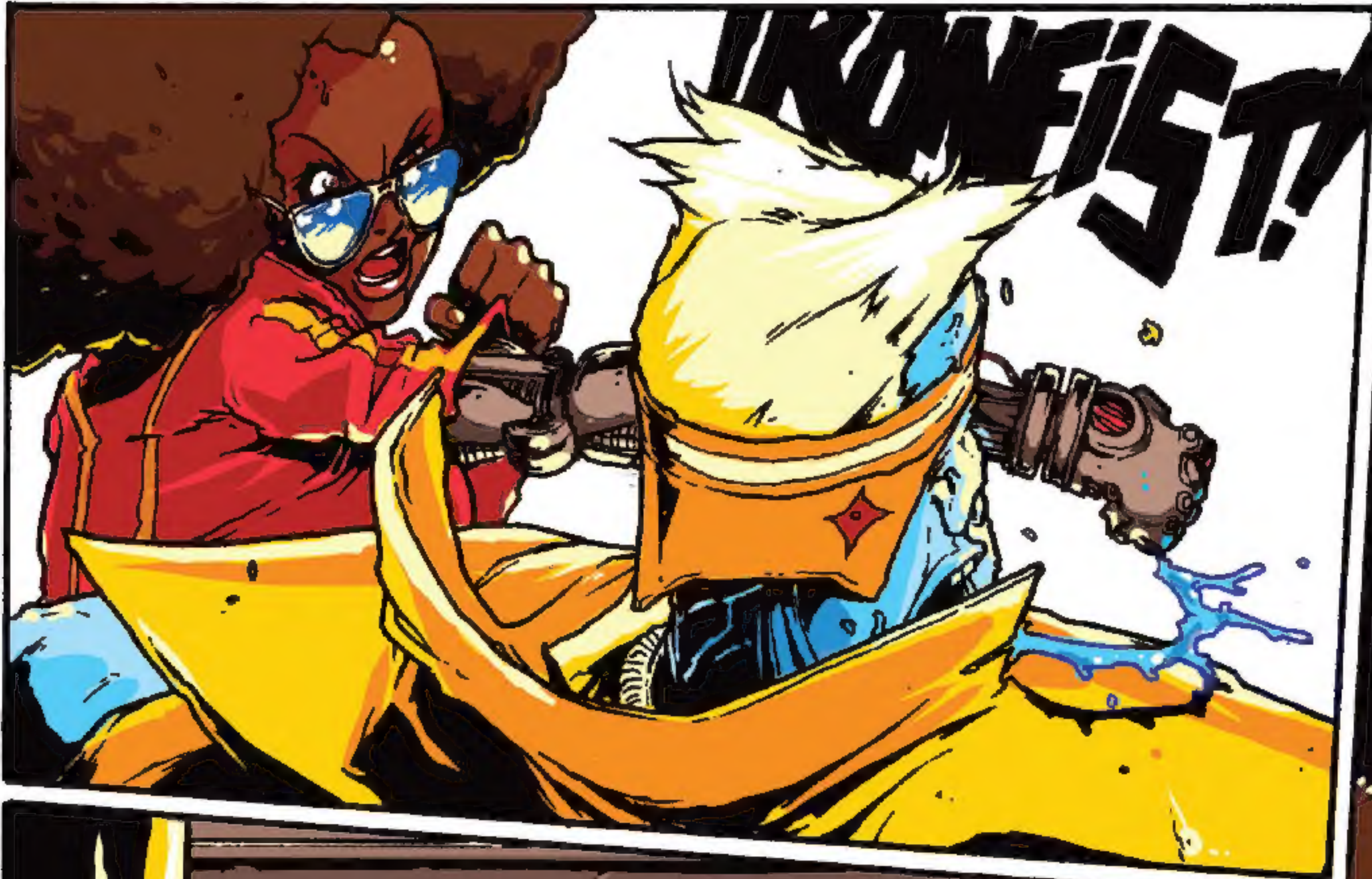


THE
CHADMASTER!

WHAT?
ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?

DAZZLER, BABE,
COME ON! I SET THIS
WHOLE THING UP FOR
YOU! WHY DO YOU THINK
NO ONE ELSE COULD SKATE?
(EXCEPT FOR THE BIG HEAD GUY.
I THOUGHT HIS NAME STOOD FOR
MENTAL ORGANISM DESIGNED
ONLY FOR ROUTINE
DIAGNOSTICS.
MY BAD.)





“MacKay’s adventures with Felicia continue to be some of the best stuff Marvel is contributing to the comics rack.” — You Don’t Read Comics

FELICIA HARDY IS BACK FOR A CLASSIC GAME OF CAT AND... **SYMBIOTE?**

KNULL’S ATTACK ON EARTH INTERRUPTS THE BLACK CAT’S LATEST HEIST — and if you know Felicia, you know that’s a problem. So the Black Cat and her crew aim to steal something of great value, both to Knull and to Earth’s hope of survival! But Felicia never shows up without the right outfit — and you won’t believe it when the Black Cat gets her own Anti-Venom costume! As Felicia adds to her bag of tricks, some of her upgrades may last beyond Knull’s invasion — and could come in handy in a feline fracas with...Queen Cat?



COLLECTING **BLACK CAT (2020) #1-4** — BY JED MACKAY, C.F. VILLA, NINA VAKUEVA
AND BRIAN REBER — PLUS MATERIAL FROM **X-MEN: TO SERVE AND PROTECT #4**.

MARVEL